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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Promotion and protection of human rights, including ways and means to promote the human rights of migrants

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/179. In that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the resolution, including an analysis on ways and means to promote and protect the rights of migrant children, particularly in the case of unaccompanied migrant children and children separated from their families.

Written submissions were received from States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in response to a note verbale from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General requesting information on the implementation of the resolution.

The report contains an analysis of ways and means to promote and protect the human rights of migrant children, including unaccompanied children or those separated from their families, with a focus on the risks faced by adolescents. The report also addresses the challenges to and recent practices in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants at international borders.

* A/69/150.



I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 68/179, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the resolution, including an analysis on ways and means to promote and protect the rights of migrant children, particularly in the case of unaccompanied children and children separated from their families. In paragraph 4 (c) of the resolution, the Assembly also requested States to adopt concrete measures to prevent the violation of the human rights of migrants while in transit, including at ports and airports and at borders and migration checkpoints, and train public officials working in those facilities and in border areas to treat migrants respectfully and in accordance with the law.

2. In response to a note verbale sent by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human rights (OHCHR) on behalf of the Secretary-General requesting information on the implementation of resolution 68/179, written submissions were received from States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.¹

3. The present report focuses on the human rights challenges faced by unaccompanied adolescents and children separated from their families (sect. II). Section III examines the violations and abuses faced by migrants at international borders and examines recent practices aimed at promoting and protecting their human rights. The final part (sect. IV) contains conclusions and recommendations.

II. Promotion and protection of the human rights of migrant children and adolescents

4. It is estimated that there are 35 million international migrants worldwide under the age of 20, and 11 million between the ages of 15 and 19 years.² However, the lack of homogeneous criteria among countries for collecting statistics and the difficulty of gathering data on migrant children and adolescents in an irregular situation complicate the ability to assemble a more accurate picture of this dimension of migration. Even when data on migratory populations and flows are available, they are not adequately disaggregated and seldom provide any information on their human rights situation.

5. Migrant children and adolescents, in particular those in an irregular situation, are exposed to grave human rights violations and abuses at various points in their journey.

¹ The text of most of the submissions received are available from www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Migration/Pages/WSReportGA69.aspx.

² United Nations and others, "Facts and figures: international migrant children and adolescents (0-19 years)", September 2013. Available from www.un.org/esa/population/migration/documents/Factsheet%20Children%20and%20Adolescent%20Migrants%2009062013.pdf.

A. Normative framework³

6. Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, all human beings are entitled to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, without discrimination of any kind, including with regard to their migration status.

7. All human rights treaties contain relevant provisions, but the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families are of particular relevance. The Convention on the Rights of the Child protects the rights of "every human being below the age of eighteen years" (art. 1), regardless of their status. It lists a number of rights relevant for migrant children and adolescents, such as registration immediately after birth, family reunification, protection from violence and abuse, access to health and education and rest and leisure, protection from exploitation, prohibition of child labour and protection from sexual abuse. It also establishes four overarching principles: non-discrimination;⁴ the best interests of the child; the right to survival and development; and the right of the child to express his or her views and to have them taken into account.

8. Under article 3 (1), the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all actions of State or private institutions concerning children.⁵ The Committee on the Rights of the Child, at its day of general discussion on the rights of children in the context of international migration, held on 28 September 2012, recommended that States should make clear that the child's best interests take priority in their legislation, policy and practice, including on migration.^{6,7}

³ This includes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO); the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons; the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness; the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949; the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations; the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea; the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue; the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

⁴ In Argentina, non-discriminatory treatment is guaranteed by law.

⁵ In Egypt, the principle of the best interests of the child is enshrined in the Constitution.

⁶ Report of the 2012 day of general discussion on the rights of all children in the context of international migration, para. 73. Available from www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRC/Discussions/2012/DGD2012ReportAndRecommendations.pdf.

⁷ In Mexico, the Immigration Act establishes family unity and the best interests of the child as primary criteria for admission and residence.

9. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, in its general comment No. 6 on treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin, stipulates that States should take all measures necessary to identify the child, carry out tracing activities and appoint a guardian to ensure respect for the child's best interest (paras. 13 and 21).⁸ The Committee also recommends that States ensure that the rights enshrined in the Convention are guaranteed for all children under the State's jurisdiction, regardless of their migration status (para. 12).

10. States are also called upon to "conduct individual assessments and evaluations of the best interests of the child at all stages of and decisions on any migration process", "completely cease the detention of children on the basis of their immigration status" and "adopt alternatives to detention".⁹

11. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families prohibits the confiscation or destruction of identity documents and collective expulsions, and underscores the right of migrants to protection and assistance from consular or diplomatic authorities. It also particularly underscores the rights to education and health of migrants, among others.

12. The International Labour Organization conventions relevant to the situation of migrant workers include the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97), and the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143). Those two conventions establish rules regarding the equality of treatment of migrant workers in a regular situation with the nationals of the State party and the minimum age for employment, apprenticeship and training. Two additional conventions relate to the protection of the rights of children and work: the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), in which States commit themselves to abolishing child labour and raising the minimum age for employment, and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), under which States parties are called upon to take measures to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour, including all forms of slavery, trafficking, debt bondage, prostitution and hazardous work.

13. The international human rights framework notwithstanding, migrant children and adolescents are at high risk of human rights violations and abuses. Migration laws, policies and practices often lack a child-rights approach and disregard the principle of the best interests of the child in decisions relating to migration governance policies on detention, deportation, restrictions on access to basic services and family unification.

B. Human rights challenges

1. Age assessments

14. Under national immigration policies, the lack of documents proving the age of child and adolescent migrants may result in an arbitrary determination. In such cases, States often employ such age assessment procedures as physical

⁸ In Germany, the Youth Welfare Office appoints a guardian who represents unaccompanied children in all matters relating to residence and asylum. In Mexico, child protection officers are tasked with protecting the integrity and rights of unaccompanied children.

⁹ Report of the 2012 day of general discussion, paras. 72, 78 and 79.

examinations, including radiological or other determinations of bone development. However, in addition to being intrusive, such procedures can be inaccurate and therefore inadequate for determining age. Any error in this regard can have a profound impact on the child, depriving her or him of protective measures that are essential for well-being and development.

15. According to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and reiterated by OHCHR in its study on challenges and best practices in the implementation of the international framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration (A/HRC/15/29, para. 44), age assessment should be a measure of last resort. If conducted, the assessment should be scientific, safe, fair and child and gender sensitive. It should be carried out by an independent panel of experts or by child protection officials, who "should not only take into account the physical appearance of the individual, but also his or her psychological maturity". Such assessment should avoid any risk of violating the physical integrity of the child and give due respect to the rights to privacy and dignity. In case of any uncertainty, the child should receive the benefit of the doubt¹⁰ and be treated accordingly. The opportunity to appeal against the decision should be ensured.¹¹

2. Transition to adulthood

16. The established legal threshold of 18 years of age for the application of the protective measures of the Convention on the Rights of the Child does not fully take into account the reality of the transition from childhood to adulthood. Research shows that the cognitive and socio-emotional development of the adolescent continues well beyond the age of 18.¹²

17. Depriving adolescents of protection when it may still be needed can render them particularly vulnerable to human rights violations, abuse and exploitation and present significant psychosocial and development challenges at a critical stage of their lives.

18. Children and adolescents experience acute anxiety and fear of detention and uncertainty regarding continuing access to basic services and rights such as education and work. The incentive to pursue education or training is greatly reduced owing to the risk of detention or non-eligibility for education, skills training and work upon reaching the age of majority. Living with such uncertainty and fear of the future affects adolescents' enjoyment of rights and well-being, in addition to their ability to contribute to society.

19. Accordingly, the protection provided by the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child should not always automatically be withdrawn when a young person turns 18; adequate follow-up, support and transition measures should be considered.^{13,14}

¹⁰ In Malta, in case of doubt regarding the age of an unaccompanied child, it is the usual practice to give the child the benefit of the doubt.

¹¹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, general comment No. 6, para. 31 (a).

¹² OHCHR and others, "Human rights of undocumented adolescents and youth", 2013, p. 12. Available from www.globalmigrationgroup.org/sites/default/files/uploads/gmg-topics/mig-data/Human-Rights-of-Undocumented-Adolescents-Youth.pdf.

¹³ Report of the 2012 day of general discussion, para. 69.

¹⁴ In Norway, municipalities provide care services until unaccompanied children reach the age of 20 years in order to ensure that those granted residence permits are properly settled.

3. Detention

20. In the context of stringent enforcement of border governance owing to rising criminalization, some countries systematically detain migrants on the grounds of irregular entry or stay within their territory. Children and adolescents in an irregular situation often end up in immigration detention as well, sometimes because of their parents' irregular status.

21. The Convention on the Rights of the Child prescribes that "no child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily" (art. 37 (b)). The Committee on the Rights of the Child has recommended that the "detention of a child because of their or their parent's migration status constitutes a child rights violation and always contravenes the principle of the best interests of the child ... States should expeditiously and completely cease the detention of children on the basis of their migration status."^{15,16}

22. The Committee further recommended that "States should adopt alternatives to detention that fulfil the best interests of the child, along with their rights to liberty and family life".¹⁷ Furthermore, the Convention extends to children the right not to be separated from their parents against their will (art. 9 (1)). Some alternatives to detention include release with non-onerous reporting conditions, supervision by non-governmental organizations or referral to shelters. When considering alternatives to detention, authorities should note their impact on the enjoyment of human rights and ensure that they are in line with, among others, the principles of necessity and proportionality. Thus, the individual circumstances of children or adolescents and the impact of these measures on their rights and well-being will need to be assessed.

23. The decision to detain a child or adolescent taken without individual and proper assessment is a matter of serious concern. Administrative and other relevant authorities need to take into consideration appropriate procedural safeguards and due process guarantees.

24. As the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants has noted, research shows that the detention of children and adolescents, even for short periods, can be extremely detrimental to their physical and mental health (A/HRC/20/24, para. 48).¹⁸ Children in immigration detention are often traumatized by the experience and have difficulty understanding why they are being "punished" despite having committed no crime (A/HRC/15/29, para. 51).

25. The conditions of detention, which may include overcrowding, forced separation from family, sharing cells with adults, exposure to sexual abuse and violence and lack of adequate food, have a negative impact, both from a human rights and a developmental perspective. In addition, children in detention are often deprived of access to education, health and play and leisure facilities.

¹⁵ Report of the 2012 day of general discussion, para. 78.

¹⁶ In Spain, detention of children is prohibited by law. In Estonia, unaccompanied children staying irregularly are not detained, but referred to substitute homes or foster care by the Social Insurance Board.

¹⁷ Report of the 2012 day of general discussion, para. 79.

¹⁸ OHCHR and others, "Human rights of undocumented adolescents and youth", p. 9.

26. Article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes that detention of a child shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest period of time. Children should be treated with humanity and in a manner that takes into account their age-specific needs. They should be held only under conditions that meet the minimum standards of detention, as set out in human rights law. This includes ensuring a child-friendly environment, separation from adults who are not the child's parents, child protection safeguards and independent monitoring.¹⁹

4. Access to economic, social and cultural rights

27. All children are entitled to the enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights without distinction, including age or migration status. However, some destination countries provide restricted or no access to services, including education, health, housing and decent work. Such a denial of rights may have a negative impact on children's physical and mental health and development in the light of their specific psychosocial needs as a vulnerable group.

28. Even when migrant children and adolescents have access to public services, they may be unable to make use of them in practice, especially when they are in an irregular situation, owing to barriers created by fear of detection and deportation; administrative requirements (birth certificate, identity documents, social security number or proof of address); lack of information about their rights and entitlements; and financial and linguistic obstacles.

29. One of the main barriers faced by migrants in an irregular situation is the fear of deportation if they are reported to immigration authorities while seeking public services. Some States require public officials such as health workers or educators to report migrants in an irregular situation to the relevant authorities. Thus, the absence of firewalls between public services and migration authorities is a vital factor in the denial of basic rights (A/68/292, para. 63).²⁰

30. Given that human rights are interconnected and interdependent, the denial of one right has a negative impact upon the enjoyment of others. Even when a migrant child or adolescent has the chance to attend school, the lack of access to health care, adequate food, water, sanitation or adequate housing may effectively result, at best, in only a partial enjoyment of the right to education.

Education

31. Primary education should be free, compulsory and available to all children. States are also urged by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (art. 28) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art. 13) to make secondary and higher education accessible to all.²¹ The right to education should be

¹⁹ Report of the 2012 day of general discussion, para. 80.

²⁰ The Republic of Korea has established firewalls between immigration authorities and those providing education, medical treatment and support services to migrants in an irregular situation. Portugal has also established firewalls between educational and health institutions and law enforcement or border authorities.

²¹ In Portugal and Cyprus, all children, regardless of immigration status, have free access to public education.

enjoyed by all children, including those with irregular status.²² Failing to enrol children and adolescent migrants in school will have a life-long impact on their future.

32. The Committee on the Rights of the Child stresses that unaccompanied or separated children, irrespective of status, should have full access to education. They should be registered and assisted to maximize their learning opportunities and should be allowed to enrol in vocational/professional training.²³

33. In some countries, migrant children or adolescents in an irregular situation do not have access to public schools; in others, they have access only to primary education. Even in countries in which migrant children or adolescents are legally entitled to education, informal barriers, including lack of appropriate documents for enrolment, high financial costs (fees, uniforms and school materials), lack of information about their entitlements or the admission system and lack of language skills, may effectively curtail their enjoyment of the right to education.

34. Other challenges faced by migrant children and adolescents include xenophobia, hate speech, exclusion and racism at school, lack of firewalls between educators and migration authorities and pressure from families to earn an income or take care of siblings and perform household chores.

35. Access to secondary education is often problematic. Even when access is granted, adolescents may be unable to enrol for training or internships because these may be considered work and are therefore barred to migrants, especially if they are in an irregular situation.²⁴ They may also encounter obstacles in taking official exams for lack of appropriate identification documents.

36. Adolescents over 18 years of age face similar challenges in gaining access to professional training or higher education. In addition to administrative barriers, they face legislative and policy impediments because in many countries higher or tertiary education is allowed only for migrants with a regular status. They also face financial barriers such as higher fees as international students, non-eligibility for financial aid or scholarships and inaccessibility of the formal job market to finance their studies. Financial issues are particularly relevant because, upon reaching the age of majority, a young migrant's entitlement to accommodation, social assistance or other basic services may be withdrawn.

37. The continuous and successive obstacles faced by adolescent migrants and their limited educational and professional prospects (especially for those in an irregular situation) are key factors in their early school dropout rates. This situation is further exacerbated in the case of adolescent girls on account of pervasive gender bias.

²² Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, general comment No. 20, para. 30: "The ground of nationality should not bar access to Covenant rights, e.g., all children within a State, including those with an undocumented status, have a right to receive education and access to adequate food and affordable health care."

²³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, general comment No. 6, paras. 41-42.

²⁴ In Spain, undocumented children can engage in internships. In Italy, migrant children can gain access to education and participate in vocational training and gain professional experience. With a view to their individual integration, children in an irregular situation are provided with the opportunity to remain in Italy once they turn 18 for reasons that include study or work.

Health

38. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (art. 24) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art. 12) entitle migrant children and adolescents to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.²⁵

39. Migrant children and adolescents are often exposed to traumatic events in their country of origin before departure, abuse and violence during a perilous journey and precarious living conditions and exploitation in destination countries. Consequently, their physical and mental health may be seriously affected. Mental and psychological health concerns of those in detention include depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress syndrome and self-harm. There have been several instances of death in detention owing to suicide or lack of health services.²⁶ The gender dimensions of physical and mental health require special attention because precarious journeys may be marked by sexual abuse, including rape, and other forms of gender-based violence against young girls and boys.

40. It is often difficult for migrant children and adolescents to have full access to health facilities, goods and services. They face legislative, policy and practical barriers, including prohibition of access owing to nationality or migration status, high service and medical costs, lack of firewalls and information about entitlements, language barriers and exclusion from health insurance and social security systems (A/HRC/15/29, para. 63). This view was echoed at an expert consultation on access to medicines as a fundamental component of the right to health (A/HRC/17/43, para. 34). Absence of culturally sensitive services, including female medical personnel, can deny girls and young women their right to health and medical services.

41. In circumstances in which only "emergency" health care is available for free, children and adolescents often wait until their health deteriorates significantly or rely on self-medication, unlicensed medical services or other unsafe channels. Other issues of concern relate to immunization against preventable diseases, care for victims of sexual violence, HIV and AIDS, reproductive health care and specialist care or continuous services.

42. States are obliged to ensure that all children, regardless of their migration status, have the same access to health as children who are citizens.²⁷ In fact, unaccompanied and separated children may require additional, affirmative care and

²⁵ In Portugal, migrant children have the same entitlements to health-care services as national children. In Argentina and Mexico, national legislation gives equal access to health-care services to migrants in an irregular situation. In Morocco, health services are free for all migrants.

²⁶ Carolyn Hamilton and others, "Administrative detention of children: a global report", discussion paper (University of Essex, UNICEF and Children's Legal Centre, 2011), pp. 95-96. Available from www.unicef.org/protection/Administrative_detention_discussion_paper_April2011.pdf; and OHCHR and others, "Human rights of undocumented adolescents and youth", p. 31.

²⁷ The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in paragraph 37 of its general comment No. 19, noted that "all persons, irrespective of their ... immigration status, are entitled to primary and emergency medical care". In paragraph 34 of general comment No. 14, the Committee underlined that "States are under the obligation to respect the right to health by, inter alia, refraining from denying or limiting equal access for all persons". See also Committee on the Rights of the Child, general comment No. 6, para. 46.

support services on account of their separation from family members and the loss, trauma, disruption and violence that they have endured.²⁸

Adequate housing

43. Migrant children and adolescents in an irregular situation face several challenges with regard to the enjoyment of the right to adequate housing. Factors such as restrictions in access to public housing, forced evictions, limited access to the private market because of penalties for providing accommodation to irregular migrants and the lack of affordable housing push migrants in an irregular situation into insecure and low-quality housing, including run-down shanties where they lack the most basic of services.

44. Thus, migrants with irregular status find themselves in situations of great vulnerability. Some fall prey to unscrupulous landlords who charge exorbitant fees in exchange for unsanitary and overcrowded accommodation. Migrants do not report such abusive practices to the authorities for fear of deportation and eviction. If rendered homeless, they are even more vulnerable to xenophobic attacks and other forms of violence, including sexual violence, which particularly affects girls and female adolescents.

45. In some countries children and adolescents are offered accommodation, but their families are not. This results in forced separation, a condition that effectively contravenes the Convention on the Rights of the Child (art. 9). Adolescents, in particular those unaccompanied or separated from their families, may find themselves homeless when excluded from accommodation upon attaining the age of majority.

46. Those children and adolescents who live and work in factories and sweatshops or work as domestic workers are sometimes confined to the premises of their employers, working long hours with little rest. As the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants has observed, they are also at added risk of physical, psychological and sexual abuse (A/HRC/26/35, para. 55), owing to their isolated workplaces.

Decent work

47. Adolescent migrants are entitled to safe and fair working conditions and to full respect of their labour rights according to the international human rights standards²⁹ and instruments and the relevant ILO conventions.

48. Migrants, in particular those in an irregular situation, face several challenges to gaining access to the formal labour market because it is highly restricted, especially for those lacking qualifications or unable to comply with legal and

²⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, general comment No. 6, para. 47.

²⁹ Article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights recognizes "the right of everyone to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work". The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in paragraph 35 of its general recommendation No. 30, establishes that, "while States parties may refuse to offer jobs to non-citizens without a work permit, all individuals are entitled to the enjoyment of labour and employment rights". The ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), in article 2, provides that States parties shall undertake to "pursue a national policy designed to promote ... equality of opportunity and treatment in respect of employment and occupation".

contractual arrangements. Even when qualified, migrants face barriers to the recognition of their degrees and professional experience. In practice, very few migrants are able to obtain authorized employment in the formal labour market.

49. However, migrant adolescents in an irregular situation need to support themselves, and often their families, even if the work offers poor and exploitative conditions. They are exposed to abusive practices (including child labour and servitude), discrimination, salaries below the minimum wage, non-payment of wages, confiscation of passports, unfair dismissal and hazardous working conditions. They may also be exposed to physical and sexual abuse and to illicit activities. Their inability to gain access to redress mechanisms for fear of deportation enhances their vulnerability. Many employers exploit these vulnerabilities and feel no obligation to provide safe and fair working conditions.³⁰ Gender discrimination adds an additional layer of vulnerability.

5. Gender equality

50. Migration can be an empowering experience for girls and adolescents, given that it exposes them to new horizons and possibilities. It can, however, also put them at risk of human rights violations and abuses. They may experience barriers to gaining access to their rights more acutely owing to gender discrimination and prescribed roles. Education of boys is often prioritized over that of girls in migrant communities and sometimes even by destination countries. Girls are also affected by their limited access to health services, especially sexual and reproductive health care.

51. Girls face additional risks owing to their limited access to employment. They often work in sectors that are largely unregulated, such as agriculture, sweatshops, the entertainment and sex industry or domestic work, with poor working conditions and the risk of exploitation and abuse. Migrant female adolescents routinely receive lower salaries than migrant men and native-born women.³¹

52. Adolescent girls are also at particular risk when their migration status depends on their employer or spouse. They may be vulnerable to exploitation and abuse by their employer and to domestic violence by their spouse.³² They may also fear losing their migration status if the relationship breaks down.

6. Xenophobia

53. Human rights violations and abuses are often linked to discriminatory laws and practices and to attitudes of prejudice and xenophobia. Xenophobia can often manifest as indirect discrimination, whereby laws, policies or practices that appear to be neutral have a disproportionate impact on particular groups.

³⁰ In the United Arab Emirates, programmes have been implemented to inform employees of their labour rights and duties and the procedures to follow in case of abuse.

³¹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, general recommendation No. 26, para. 15.

³² In Ireland, migrant victims of domestic violence can retain their residency in cases where the renewal of the immigration permission is dependent on the abuser who may be an employer or a spouse.

54. Attitudes that criminalize migrants and blame them for criminal acts, terrorism and economic hardships lead to hate crimes and encourage further restrictions on their economic, social and cultural rights.

55. Children and adolescents are at particular risk of xenophobia at school,³³ having a negative impact on their education and health, including their mental health.

III. Human rights at international borders

56. International migration, in particular irregular migration, is described by some States as a threat to national security (A/HRC/20/24, para. 8). States therefore give primacy to security concerns and to preventing the arrival of migrants at international borders.³⁴ The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants has pointed out that this perspective is at odds with a human rights-based approach that sees migrants first and foremost as human beings and as holders of rights rather than as a security threat (A/HRC/23/46, para. 31).

57. Prompted solely by considerations of national security, border governance without human rights safeguards can lead to human rights violations and a breach of international principles such as non-refoulement. Border governance often takes place in an environment that lacks transparency and accountability, contributing in turn to conditions of impunity and to the increased vulnerability of migrants. Some States mistakenly consider border areas as international zones or excised territory (such as airports, land entry points and islands off the coast of the mainland), where they can act as though they were not bound by legal regimes or their human rights obligations.³⁵

58. However, zones of exclusion from the rule of law and international human rights obligations at international borders cannot be lawfully sustained. States are bound under international human rights law³⁶ to apply this framework to all human beings in all areas under their jurisdiction or effective control, including migrants.

59. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/HRC/20/24, para. 13) and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families³⁷ have clearly stated that the crossing of a national border in an unauthorized manner or overstaying a permit of stay does not constitute

³³ In Spain, an observatory against racism and xenophobia has been created, with one of its projects focusing on preventing and combating racism and xenophobia in schools.

³⁴ For the purposes of the present report, the term "international borders" is understood broadly as the politically defined boundaries separating territory or maritime zones between political entities and to the areas where political entities exercise border governance measures in their territory or extraterritorially (such areas include land checkpoints, border posts at train stations, ports and airports, immigration and transit zones, the high seas and so-called "no-man's land" between border posts, in addition to embassies and consulates).

³⁵ Background paper prepared by OHCHR, in cooperation with the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, for the expert consultation on human rights at international borders, 22 and 23 March 2012, p. 14. Available from www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Migration/Pages/OHCHRExpertconsultationExploringGapsinPolicyandPractice.aspx.

³⁶ For the international legal instruments of relevance to migration and human rights, see footnote 3 above.

³⁷ General comment No. 2, para. 24.

a crime. Irregular entry and stay is not properly defined as a crime against persons or property, nor against national security. It may in some circumstances constitute an administrative offence, but it does not deprive migrants of their human rights entitlements. The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has also stated that "immigrants in irregular situations should not be qualified or treated as criminals and be viewed only from the perspective of national security" (A/HRC/10/21, para. 68).

60. Increased border surveillance and securitization, together with a drastic reduction of avenues for legal migration, force migrants to seek alternatives. To enter destination countries, they are often compelled to travel routes using unsafe means of transport and relying on smugglers; sometimes, they fall prey to traffickers. Consequently, they are susceptible to human rights abuses and violations, including exploitation, trafficking, ill-treatment and sexual violence. States have an obligation to prevent, investigate and punish those responsible for these violations, provide protection to the vulnerable and remedies to those harmed.

A. Human rights challenges

61. Thousands of migrants tragically die every year trying to cross international borders.³⁸ They are variously victims of the use of lethal or excessive force by border authorities, the violence of criminal gangs, push-back or interception operations, forced disappearances, refusal of vessels to rescue them when in distress, extreme conditions of travel (such as crossing deserts on foot) or fatal accidents, including the sinking of vessels.

62. If they do manage to reach an international border, migrants often endure ill-treatment at the hands of border officials, for example by the disproportionate use of force to prevent entry or when carrying out a forced return.³⁹ Women and children are at particular risk of diverse forms of violence, including sexual violence. The border governance malpractices of States, sometimes under the rubric of migration governance, include arbitrary and systematic detention of migrants, ill-treatment, arbitrary and collective expulsions (including refoulement), lack of due process guarantees or procedural safeguards,⁴⁰ discrimination and lack of humanitarian assistance which, in situations of humanitarian distress, have been seen to lead even to loss of life.

63. The systematic and arbitrary detention of migrants in an irregular situation for processing migration formalities is increasingly reported. Reports state that detention of migrants has a detrimental effect on their physical and mental health, and prolonged detention has been found to exacerbate the adverse effects of detention (A/HRC/20/24, para. 48). The harm caused by detention is even greater for some groups, including families, children and victims of trafficking or sexual violence or torture.

³⁸ Consular officials of El Salvador and Guatemala assist in the search for missing migrants. Some missing migrants have been located and the remains of others identified.

³⁹ Several countries, including Greece, Ireland, Lebanon and Malta, provide human rights training in the context of border control and migration.

⁴⁰ In Italy, the Praesidium project provides legal counselling for migrants, identifies vulnerable groups and monitors reception procedures.

64. The international legal framework establishes that detention should be prescribed by law and necessary, reasonable and proportional (A/HRC/20/24, para. 9). The possibility of regular and timely judicial reviews that afford opportunities for release should be provided. The General Assembly, in its resolution 63/184, called upon all States to adopt, where applicable, alternative measures to detention. The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has also stated that alternatives to detention of migrants in an irregular situation should be sought whenever possible (A/HRC/10/21, para. 67) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child has recommended that immigration detention of children should cease.⁴¹

65. Even where detainees under criminal law enjoy human rights guarantees and safeguards, migrants in administrative detention centres are often deprived of them. They have rare or limited access to information on the reasons for their detention, consular assistance,^{42,43} family contact, interpretation services, legal advice, individual and appropriate assessment of their cases, possibilities of legal review⁴⁴ and access to remedies or independent decision-making bodies. The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has adopted a list of guarantees for immigrants and asylum seekers in detention (E/CN.4/2000/4, annex II).

66. Conditions of detention in border areas are also of concern. Reports have pointed out shortcomings, including lack of medical care, insufficient and poor-quality food, poor sanitary facilities, overcrowding and lack of separate-sex facilities. Migrants in detention are also victims of ill-treatment, sexual abuse⁴⁵ and other violence at the hands of border personnel or other detainees. Lack of monitoring of the conditions of detention, the behaviour of some border personnel and the lack of complaint mechanisms aggravate the plight of migrants in detention.

67. Every migrant is entitled to an individual and proper assessment of her or his circumstances by a competent official, including protection needs and human rights and other considerations, in addition to reasons for entry. However, migrants often endure collective expulsions and forced returns, which are arbitrary and lead to further multiple human rights violations. They violate the right to challenge the decision of expulsion, to have an individual determination of the case, and other procedural safeguards and due process guarantees.⁴⁶ The expulsion or forced return of migrants who fear torture or ill-treatment or other human rights violations or of

⁴¹ Report of the 2012 day of general discussion, para. 78.

⁴² In contravention of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

⁴³ Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic concluded a memorandum of understanding with the objective of establishing a network to provide consular protection in Mexico. This network shares consular protection programmes for migrants during their transit and stay in Mexico.

⁴⁴ In Malta, migrants in an irregular situation are provided with a pamphlet informing them of their rights, including the possibility of challenging removal orders and filing an asylum application.

⁴⁵ The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, stated that "cases of custodial rape and other forms of sexual violence against undocumented immigrant women detained for deportation have been reported" (E/CN.4/2000/68, para. 66) and that "even if they are victimized, however, these undocumented migrants continue to be classified as criminals because of their immigration status and attendant offences which they may have committed" (*ibid.*, para. 44).

⁴⁶ Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 15, para. 10.

asylum seekers who fear persecution can also result in a violation of the principle of non-refoulement.⁴⁷

68. Interception practices, where groups of migrants are pushed back to countries of origin or transit, can be arbitrary and lead to human rights violations, including of the principle of non-refoulement.⁴⁸ Such practices fail to address the protection needs of migrants, put their lives at further risk and disregard the humanitarian assistance needs of migrants who may have been on perilous journeys⁴⁹ for a considerable time.

69. Some destination countries have established return and readmission agreements with countries of origin and transit, with the objective of facilitating the rapid expulsion of migrants in an irregular situation and asylum seekers whose claims have been rejected. Such agreements often do not include human rights guarantees and may lead to situations of serial refoulement, given that they do not include mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of the protection provided or the human rights guarantees in the countries of return.

70. Some border personnel confiscate migrants' personal property such as identity documents, money and mobile phones without returning them when the migrants are expelled. Without those documents, migrants may be at a greater risk of further detention, be unable to contact relatives or lack the means to begin the return journey.

71. Migrants are also vulnerable to acts of exploitation, kidnapping, extortion, violence and killing by gangs and traffickers. However, they often do not report such abuses to the authorities for fear of reprisals from those individuals or because authorities may be complicit with traffickers. Thus, some border zones are zones of impunity.

B. Principles and guidelines

72. To address these and other human rights violations faced by migrants at international borders and the gaps in the effective enjoyment of their human rights, OHCHR has prepared a set of recommended principles and guidelines on human rights at international borders.⁵⁰ Deriving from core international human rights instruments, the principles and guidelines are offered primarily to States to support them in fulfilling their border governance obligations in accordance with international human rights law and other relevant standards. They are also recommended to other relevant stakeholders.

⁴⁷ OHCHR, "Migration and human rights: improving human rights-based governance of international migration", p. 19.

⁴⁸ Italy has engaged to abandon "push-back" practices and has strongly committed itself to search and rescue activities at sea through its Mare Nostrum rescue operation, which began following the sinking of a ship off the island of Lampedusa in 2013 in which hundreds of migrants lost their lives.

⁴⁹ Colombia has established offices in border areas where, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, they provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable returned migrants. El Salvador has established a reintegration of returned migrants programme to provide assistance in the reintegration of returned girls, boys and adolescents.

⁵⁰ The text will shortly be available from www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Migration/Pages/WSReportGA69.aspx.

73. The principles establish the primacy of human rights in migration governance, which includes the duty to respect, protect and fulfil human rights wherever jurisdiction or effective control is exercised, including extraterritorially, the right to due process and the principle of the best interests of the child. They also recall that border governance measures must not be discriminatory and the obligation to provide assistance and protection from harm, in particular by respecting the non-refoulement principle, the prohibition of arbitrary and collective expulsions, the need to consider the individual circumstances of migrants and the entitlement to access justice and remedies for the human rights violations or abuses endured.

74. The guidelines stress the need to promote and protect human rights in the context of border governance and to include those rights in national legislation, international agreements and capacity-building activities. They also offer direction on how to implement human rights obligations in the different operations of border governance: rescue and interception, assistance, screening and interviewing, identification and referral, detention, return and removal.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Conclusions

75. The international human rights framework designed to provide protection to children and adolescents notwithstanding, migrants, in particular those in an irregular situation, are often victims of human rights violations and abuses at the hands of border and law enforcement officials at international borders. They also face multiple human rights violations from other actors, including smugglers and traffickers, in the course of their perilous journeys.

76. They are often detained on account of their irregular status, sometimes in deplorable conditions. Such detentions are a violation of their rights and contravene the principle of the best interests of the child. Detention is seen to have a detrimental impact on the overall health of migrant children and adolescents. These concerns are further aggravated in the context of gender-based discrimination and abuse.

77. In several countries, children and adolescents, especially those in a situation of irregular migration, face enormous restrictions, *de jure* or *de facto*, on their access to economic, social and cultural rights. Factors that prevent the enjoyment of their rights include discrimination, xenophobia and the absence of firewalls between service providers and immigration authorities. Of particular concern is the abrupt termination of the protective measures contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child once children reach the age of 18. This is an age when the transition from childhood to adulthood has not been fully achieved and the cognitive and socio-emotional needs that require protection in line with the Convention may not have been fulfilled.

78. Destination countries often presumptively view migrants, especially those in an irregular situation, as security threats. Migrants routinely experience discrimination, systematic and arbitrary detention, ill-treatment, dangerous interception practices, unlawful profiling, collective expulsions and forced returns. The circumstances of and reasons for their entry into the country

(including protection or other human rights imperatives) are often not properly assessed, with little attention given to procedural safeguards and due process guarantees. A growing number of migrants are also victims of grave abuses at the hands of criminal gangs and traffickers. The gender- and age-related dimensions of these abuses are particularly egregious.

B. Recommendations

79. The Secretary-General welcomes the information received from Member States concerning legislation, regulations and policies to strengthen the protection of the human rights of all migrants and, in that regard:

(a) Encourages States to ratify all relevant international human rights instruments, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(b) Underlines that States have an obligation under the core international human rights instruments to protect the human rights of all individuals under their jurisdiction or effective control, regardless of their nationality or legal status;

(c) Reminds States that the principle of the best interests of the child should guide their legislation, policies and practices relating to children, including in the context of migration and regardless of their status. Children should not be detained, and their rights to liberty and family unity should be respected;

(d) Calls upon States to determine the best interests of unaccompanied children by carrying out an individualized, case-by-case, comprehensive assessment of their status and protection needs. The assessment should be carried out in a child-rights-friendly manner by qualified professionals. Subsequently, a competent guardian should be appointed;

(e) Encourages States to implement the recommendations adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child at the 2012 day of general discussion on the rights of all children in the context of international migration;

(f) Calls upon States to provide adequate follow-up and support measures for children/adolescents when they reach 18 years of age, especially for those leaving a care context, by ensuring, among other things, access to regularization of their migration status and reasonable opportunities for completing their education and integrating into the labour market;

(g) Encourages States to establish effective safeguards and firewalls between public service providers and immigration enforcement authorities. Public service institutions should not be required to report to or otherwise share data with immigration authorities;

(h) Calls upon States to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants, including through their border governance practices. States should consider applying the recommended principles and guidelines on human rights at international borders prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(i) Calls upon States to combat xenophobia, racism and discrimination against migrants, including on the basis of gender. States should also refrain from criminalizing migrants in an irregular situation because they have committed no criminal act;

(j) Underlines the right of migrants to individual and proper assessment of their circumstances (including protection needs, human rights and gender considerations) with procedural safeguards and due process guarantees;

(k) Encourages States to implement alternatives to administrative detention guided by human rights considerations. Detention should be a measure of last resort and the reasons clearly defined in law. It should be of limited scope and duration, necessary, proportionate and with the possibility of regular and timely judicial reviews that afford opportunities for release. Detention conditions should comply with human rights obligations and be subject to independent monitoring;

(l) Calls upon States to abstain from carrying out collective expulsions or forced returns. Return and readmission agreements should contain human rights guarantees and respect for the principle of non-refoulement;

(m) Calls upon States to prevent, investigate and punish all human rights violations and abuses experienced by migrants during their journey and at borders. Migrants should be provided with effective and timely access to remedies;

(n) Encourages States to expand the opportunities for regular migration, including for low-skilled workers, taking into account the actual labour needs.



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Rights of indigenous peoples

Status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/131.

* A/69/150.



Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples

Summary

The present report on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/131. It provides updated information on the activities of the Fund since the submission of the previous biennial report (A/67/221), including on the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh annual sessions of the Board of Trustees, held in 2013 and 2014, respectively. It also reports on the outcome of the intersessional meetings of the Board, a working method established to respond to the expansion of the mandate of the Fund to sessions of human rights treaty bodies and of the Human Rights Council.

I. Mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples

1. The initial mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/131, was to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations by providing them with financial assistance, funded by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities.
2. Over the past 29 years, the mandate of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples has been expanded six times, giving the opportunity to indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of other human rights mechanisms and to contribute to important developments on indigenous issues that take place at the international level.
3. The first expansion of the Fund occurred in December 1995 (see General Assembly resolution 50/156) and made it possible for indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended intersessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. As a result, around 130 specialized indigenous activists received financial support from the Fund to attend sessions on the draft declaration, thus contributing to this major standard-setting exercise, which culminated in the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (resolution 61/295, annex) on 13 September 2007.
4. The mandate of the Fund was further expanded following the creation by the Commission on Human Rights (in its resolution 1998/20, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1998/247) of an open-ended intersessional ad hoc working group to elaborate and consider proposals for the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system. The General Assembly decided, in its resolution 53/130, that the Fund should also be used to assist indigenous representatives in participating in the deliberations of the ad hoc working group. The Fund subsequently allocated grants to some 50 indigenous representatives to attend meetings of the group.
5. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2000/22, established the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as a subsidiary organ of the Council. Subsequent to this development, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution 56/140, that the Fund should also be used to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations in attending the sessions of the Permanent Forum as observers.
6. In its resolution 63/161, the General Assembly expanded the mandate of the Fund so as to facilitate the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations in the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, established as a subsidiary organ of the Human Rights Council in accordance with its resolution 6/36.
7. In its resolution 65/198, the General Assembly further expanded the mandate of the Fund in order to facilitate the participation of representatives of indigenous

peoples' organizations and communities in sessions of the Human Rights Council and of human rights treaty bodies.

8. In September 2012, the General Assembly, in its resolution 66/296, expanded the mandate of the Fund to include support for representatives of indigenous peoples, organizations, institutions and communities to participate in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014, as well as in the preparatory process for the Conference.

9. In December 2013, the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/149, changed the name of the Fund from "United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations" to "United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples". This symbolic but highly significant move better reflects the status and rights of those who benefit from the work of the Fund.

II. Administration of the Fund and composition of the Board of Trustees

10. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/131, the Fund is administered by the Secretary-General, in accordance with the relevant financial rules and regulations of the United Nations on general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, and with the advice of a Board of Trustees. The recommendations of the Board are approved by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) acts as the secretariat of the Fund and the Board.

11. The Board of Trustees is composed of five persons with relevant experience on issues affecting indigenous peoples, who serve in their personal capacity as United Nations experts. The Board members are appointed by the Secretary-General for a three-year renewable term.

12. The current Board members appointed by the Secretary-General for the period from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2014 are Kenneth Deer (Canada), Shankar Limbu (Nepal), Dalee Sambo Dorough (United States of America), Legborsi Saro Pyagbara (Nigeria) and Joenia Batista de Carvalho (Brazil).

III. Grant cycle

A. Meetings of the Board of Trustees

13. The Board of Trustees has adapted its working methods in order to respond to the new challenges arising from the expansion of the mandate of the Fund. To this end, five calls, tailored around the sessions of the different mechanisms, are launched throughout the year. In addition to its annual sessions, the Board has established a system of intersessional meetings organized by e-mail to decide on the allocation of grants to indigenous peoples' organizations and communities that wish to participate in sessions of the Human Rights Council, including the universal periodic review mechanism, and the human rights treaty bodies. Intersessional meetings are usually held in May, August and November of each calendar year.

B. Admissibility of new applications and selection process

14. The criteria for the selection of beneficiaries have been established by the General Assembly, as well as by the Secretary-General upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees. The Board has also formulated additional criteria for the selection of beneficiaries attending the sessions of the Human Rights Council, including the universal periodic review, and the human rights treaty bodies, taking into account the specific accreditation and attendance rules that apply to the work of those bodies and mechanisms.

15. Indigenous women, youth and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply for funding. In this regard, it is important to note that application and evaluation forms and calls for applications, all available in English, French and Spanish, are also available in a format accessible to indigenous persons with disabilities.

16. In applying the criteria for the selection of beneficiaries, members of the Board ensure geographical, gender and age balance as much as possible. Priority is also given to regions underrepresented in the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Decisions are taken on the basis of the level of available contributions.

17. In addition, the secretariat reviews all the recommendations of the Board for consistency with relevant United Nations administrative and financial rules and regulations. The High Commissioner approves, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the recommendations made at the annual session of the Board.

18. Approved travel grants include a round-trip air ticket in economy class from the beneficiary's home town to Geneva or New York and a daily subsistence allowance for the days of the session, which he or she receives upon arrival in Geneva or New York.

C. Monitoring and evaluation of grants

19. The attendance and contributions of the beneficiaries of the Fund during the sessions of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism are closely monitored. Moreover, beneficiaries are requested to provide a copy of any statement delivered as part of their reporting obligations and to complete questionnaires on their participation and follow-up activities upon return to their respective home countries. The secretariat of the Fund maintains a daily attendance sheet of the grantees.

20. At its annual session, the Board of Trustees reviews the status of all travel grants allocated in previous years, as well as the reports containing the secretariat's analysis of the questionnaires submitted by beneficiaries on their participation and follow-up activities. The Board does not consider applications from previous beneficiaries of the Fund who failed to submit their evaluation forms.

21. The Board of Trustees and the secretariat of the Fund each send a representative to the sessions of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism to meet with and provide support to all beneficiaries present, including by contributing to their training, and to assess the impact of their participation on the deliberations at the sessions.

IV. Twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh annual meetings of the Board of Trustees

22. The Board of Trustees held its twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh annual meetings from 11 to 15 February 2013 and from 17 to 21 February 2014, respectively.

23. During the meetings, the Board of Trustees reviewed the implementation of the recommendations adopted during its previous sessions and examined information prepared by the secretariat, in particular relating to the extension of the mandate of the Fund, policy issues, capacity-building of indigenous peoples, fundraising efforts and the financial situation of the Fund, including contributions received or pledges made. It decided to allocate grants to indigenous representatives wishing to participate in meetings of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Human Rights Council, including the universal periodic review, and the human rights treaty bodies.

24. In addition, the Board of Trustees met with representatives of Member States during two donor meetings that were organized during the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh annual sessions. Board members expressed their gratitude to the donor States (see para. 50) for their generous contributions to the Fund and appealed for increasing support from Governments and other donors.

25. The recommendations made by the Board of Trustees during the two annual meetings, as well as during the intersessional virtual meetings, were approved on 13 March 2013 and on 17 March 2014 by the High Commissioner on behalf of the Secretary-General.

A. Recommendations for grants at the twenty-sixth session of the Board of Trustees

26. During its twenty-sixth annual session, the Board considered more than 260 admissible applications. Having examined the applications in the light of the selection criteria, the Board recommended the following for approval by the Secretary-General: 27 grants for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum; 20 grants for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the sixth session of the Expert Mechanism; 4 grants for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the sixteenth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review; 1 grant for a representative of an indigenous organization to attend the 108th session of the Human Rights Committee and 3 grants for indigenous representatives to attend the ninth session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

27. Furthermore, the Board set aside a budget to enable representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the sessions of the Human Rights Council, human rights treaty bodies and mechanisms held between September 2013 and March 2014.

28. The Board made the following recommendations during the three intersessional meetings held in May, August and December 2013: six grants for the participation of indigenous representatives in the twenty-third to twenty-fifth sessions of the Human Rights Council; three grants for representatives of

indigenous communities and organizations to attend the seventeenth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review; two grants for the participation of an indigenous representative in the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; one grant for the participation of an indigenous representative in the eighty-third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; one grant for the participation of an indigenous representative in the tenth session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and six grants for the participation of indigenous representatives in the 109th and 110th sessions of the Human Rights Committee.

B. Recommendations for grants at the twenty-seventh session of the Board of Trustees

29. During its twenty-seventh annual session, the Board considered more than 265 admissible applications. A total of 25 grants were allocated to support the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and communities in the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum; 20 grants for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the fifth session of the Expert Mechanism; 1 grant for a representative of an indigenous organization to attend the sixty-sixth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; and 2 grants for indigenous representatives to attend the eleventh session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

30. The Board also decided to set aside a budget to allocate, through intersessional meetings, grants for sessions of the human rights treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council, including the universal periodic review, scheduled from July 2014 to March 2015. In 2014, one intersessional virtual meeting was held in May. The Board of Trustees allocated one grant for the participation of an indigenous peoples' organization in the 58th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and five grants for participation in the eighty-fifth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Two more intersessional virtual meetings will be held in August and November 2014.

V. Expansion of the mandate of the Fund to support the participation of indigenous peoples in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

31. In September 2012, the General Assembly, in its resolution 66/296, expanded the mandate of the Fund to include support for indigenous peoples to participate in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014, as well as in the preparatory process for the Conference.

32. The members of the Board discussed the implications of the expansion of the Fund's mandate and expressed their concern at the limited staff resources available to handle an increase in the workload generated by the expansion. The Board expressed its concern as to the impact that this may have on the capacity of the Board to fulfil its mandate. The Fund received earmarked funding from Denmark,

New Zealand, Norway and Sweden to support the participation of indigenous representatives of all regions in the meetings.

33. In accordance with resolution 66/296, the Board recommended the following for approval by the Secretary-General:

(a) A total of 21 grants for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the interactive hearing held in June 2014 pursuant to resolution 66/296 on the organization of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples;

(b) A total of 84 grants for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the World Conference.

34. The Board also recommended that the grants be divided equally among the seven indigenous regions and that the indigenous regions take into consideration representatives of the youth and women caucuses, as well as persons with disabilities, in their selection.

VI. Other recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees

A. Follow-up activities

35. The Board of Trustees recommended that, whenever possible, beneficiaries of the Fund contact the OHCHR field presences and the United Nations Development Programme to seek assistance and explore cooperation opportunities, including for follow-up activities in relation to the implementation of the recommendations of the Human Rights Council, including the universal periodic review mechanism and the special procedures, and the human rights treaty bodies.

36. Moreover, the Board emphasized that promoting linkages between indigenous peoples' organizations and field presences could facilitate the integration of indigenous issues in the work of OHCHR. In addition, the Board suggested that collaboration between OHCHR field representation and beneficiaries of the Fund be strengthened with a view to better raising awareness of and implementing the principles contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

B. Capacity-building and training

37. The Board members continued to emphasize the need to increase efforts to build the capacity of indigenous representatives to effectively participate in and contribute to sessions of the human rights mechanisms. The Board held extensive discussions on the means to maximize the preparation, participation and follow-up activities of beneficiaries attending the sessions of the human rights mechanisms, as well as the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. One way that the Fund is trying to achieve this aim is through an ongoing collaboration with the University of Arizona to prepare a practical guide for indigenous peoples. This new tool is aimed at assisting indigenous peoples in better understanding United Nations human rights

mechanisms and becoming adequately prepared to successfully advocate for their rights at the international level.

38. In addition to providing financial support to enable the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations meetings, the Fund employs resources to build the capacity of indigenous peoples to make them truly effective participants in those meetings. For example, during the reporting period, the Fund organized, in partnership with the Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information, eight human rights training modules in four languages in Geneva and New York to increase the capacity of indigenous peoples' representatives to effectively participate in the human rights mechanisms.

39. Moreover, in cooperation with non-governmental organization partners based in Geneva, the Fund provided assistance to indigenous peoples' representatives in targeting their advocacy, making constructive interventions tailored to each United Nations event and contributing to the implementation of the recommendations made by human rights mechanisms and those contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the national level.

C. Information sharing and collaboration with other human rights mechanisms

40. The Board of Trustees recommended that either the Chair or another member of the Board continue to represent the Board at sessions of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism and attend the sessions of the Human Rights Council at which indigenous peoples' issues are addressed to give an update on the implementation of the mandate of the Fund and other developments.

41. The Board welcomed the constant collaborative efforts made by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism to appeal to States and other interested parties to contribute financially to support the work of the Fund, as well as to help to disseminate information on the activities of the Fund to their respective indigenous networks.

42. The Board continues to welcome the practice, established by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, of holding meetings with the beneficiaries of the Fund in parallel to the sessions of the Expert Mechanism and the Permanent Forum and recommended that the secretariat of the Fund continue to play an active role in disseminating information to grantees wishing to send information to or communicate with the Special Rapporteur.

43. The extension of the mandate of the Fund to cover the sessions of the human rights mechanisms has allowed indigenous peoples to engage actively to bring indigenous peoples' issues and perspectives into the work of human rights bodies. The work of the Fund has already helped to heighten the profile of indigenous peoples' issues in the work and findings of those bodies.

44. Furthermore, the Board met with members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to discuss ways to improve the participation of indigenous peoples in the sessions of the Committee. The members of the Board extended their admiration and support to the work that the Committee has undertaken to empower indigenous peoples worldwide.

45. In addition, during the ninth and eleventh sessions of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Fund organized, in collaboration with the International Disability Alliance, two side events on the situation of indigenous women with disabilities and on advancing the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities in the light of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Grantees of the Fund participated in both side events, and the insights and information that they had brought to the discussions were very much welcomed by members of the treaty body and others concerned.

VII. Financial status of the Fund and contributions received

46. The Fund is funded by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities. In order to respond to increasing demands to operate and fulfil its mandate in a satisfactory manner, the Fund needs to be supported on a regular basis.

47. Since the creation of the Fund in 1985, its mandate has been expanded six times in response to developments and the changing realities of the United Nations system and indigenous peoples. The Board and the secretariat have reacted immediately to those new challenges so as to enable indigenous peoples to benefit from each new mandate, with the support of donors. Over the years, the General Assembly and the regular donors to the Fund have viewed the Fund as an important tool in providing assistance to indigenous peoples and have recognized the accomplishments of its Board in carrying out this task.

48. The Board can allocate travel grants on the basis of the contributions paid and duly registered by the United Nations Treasurer, as well as any balance remaining from previous years, as established by the United Nations Office at Geneva.

49. Although the level of contributions received in 2013 and 2014 increased compared with the previous years, the uncertainty about future contributions continues to affect the delivery of the mandate of the Fund. The Board hopes that the injection of funds received in the past years will be sustained beyond the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

50. The table below indicates the contributions received from States for the period from January 2012 to June 2014:

Contributions received from States (January 2012-June 2014)

(United States dollars)

<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Year of receipt</i>
Algeria	5 000	2014
Argentina	10 000	2012
	10 000	2013
	15 000	2014
Australia	98 640	2012
	95 150	2013
Chile	5 000	2012
	5 000	2013
	5 000	2014

<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Year of receipt</i>
Cyprus	4 047	2012
Denmark	231 225	2014
Estonia	9 191	2012
	10 430	2013
Finland	25 740	2012
	26 490	2013
	27 174	2014
Germany	46 481	2012
Holy See	1 500	2013
	1 417	2014
Mexico	24 188	2012
	26 139	2013
	26 355	2014
Norway	205 692	2012
	146 026	2013
	150 150	2014
Peru	5 000	2013
Saudi Arabia	20 000	2012
Spain	2 586	2012
	20 690	2013
Sweden	100 000	2012
Turkey	10 000	2013
	10 000	2014
Total	1 379 311	

51. Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities can contribute to the Fund. Information on how to contribute can be obtained from the secretariat at: United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, or by e-mail: indigenousfunds@ohchr.org.

VIII. Recommendations

52. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples has continued to provide important support to the participation of indigenous representatives in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and in the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The expansion of the mandate has further increased the potential of the Fund, as it can now also support indigenous participation in the Human Rights Council and the human rights treaty bodies, as well as in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

53. In order to bolster this ongoing work, it is imperative that the Fund receive increasing support from Governments and other donors. Although the level of contributions received in 2013 and 2014 increased compared with the previous years, it is imperative that the Fund receive sustained and increasing support from Governments and other donors in the future in order to fulfil its mandate in a satisfactory manner in the light of increasing demands.

54. After assessing the present financial needs of the Fund, the Board of Trustees of the Fund recommended a target of \$1.4 million for the biennium 2014-2015. This amount will allow the Board to meet one third of the requests for funding that it currently receives.

55. In order to successfully advance the human rights of indigenous peoples, it is important to ensure the continued participation of those most directly affected. The Fund plays an essential role in that sense. The year 2015 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Fund, which calls for a celebration of the Fund's history and positive impact on United Nations processes to effectively ensure the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples.



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Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

As efforts intensify to meet the Millennium Development Goal target to halve the percentage of people who suffer from hunger by 2015, the international community has increasingly focused on addressing the underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition. Guided by the aspirational vision of the Zero Hunger Challenge, many countries have renewed their efforts to eradicate poverty, empower smallholder farmers and rural women, increase access to food, address malnutrition, build resilience among the most vulnerable populations, sustainably increase agricultural productivity, adapt agriculture to climate change and its effects, reduce food losses and waste, and ensure adequate means of implementation. New global and regional alliances are forming around those issues and will serve to provide a strong foundation for a post-2015 development agenda that gives appropriate consideration to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

* A/69/150.



I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 68/233 on agriculture development, food security and nutrition, the General Assembly requested, among other things, that the Secretary-General report to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on matters highlighted therein, including the commitment to support developing countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, to improve the lives of the poorest people, and to give appropriate consideration to agriculture development, food security and nutrition in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

2. The present report examines the progress made to date and the challenges that remain in achieving food security and nutrition, sustainably increasing agricultural production, and reducing agricultural losses and waste, in accordance with the Zero Hunger Challenge and international agreements, such as the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. It also looks ahead on how to maintain momentum beyond the achievement of the 2015 targets through the incorporation of food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture in the proposed sustainable development goals and their placement within a comprehensive post-2015 development agenda.

II. Overview

3. The number of people in the world who suffer from chronic hunger has fallen, from 868 million in 2010-2012 to 842 million people in 2011-2013. This constitutes a 17 per cent decrease since 1990. Still, one in eight people in the world today remains chronically undernourished.¹ Undernutrition includes stunting, wasting and underweight; it is the underlying cause in an estimated 45 per cent of all deaths among children under 5 years of age.

4. From 2000 to 2012, the global prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age declined from one in three to one in four — with the number of children affected falling from 197 million to 162 million, 90 per cent of them in Asia and Africa.²

5. In 2012, 51 million children under 5 years of age were wasted, and 17 million were severely wasted, prevalence rates of almost 8 per cent and just under 3 per cent, respectively. Approximately 71 per cent of all severely wasted children live in Asia and 28 per cent in Africa, with similar figures for wasted children, at 69 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively.² Those children are at substantial increased risk of severe acute malnutrition and death.

6. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), micronutrient deficiencies are an insidious form of malnutrition and are sometimes referred to as hidden hunger. Although hunger may be eliminated, deficiencies in micronutrients, such as iron, iodine or vitamin A, can persist, with serious consequences for maternal and child health. In developing countries, it is estimated that half of all pregnant woman and about 40 per cent of preschool children are anaemic. Iron

¹ *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, United Nations, New York.

² United Nations Children's Fund-World Health Organization-World Bank, Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition (<http://www.who.int/entity/nutgrowthdb/en/>).

deficiency anaemia is often aggravated by worm infections, malaria and other infectious diseases, such as HIV and tuberculosis.

7. Among children under 5 years of age, the global trend in overweight prevalence — another form of malnutrition — rose from 5 per cent to 7 per cent, with the global burden increasing from 32 million to 44 million. The rise in overweight prevalence is reflected in all regions, while the absolute numbers are increasing in Africa, Asia and the developed countries but not in Latin America and Oceania.² The rapid rise in obesity and obesity-related chronic diseases coexisting with undernutrition has been called the “double burden” of malnutrition.

8. While developing regions as a whole have registered significant progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goal hunger target, 33 countries, 26 in Africa and 7 in Asia, remain in need of external assistance for food owing to conflict, crop failures and high domestic food prices, or a combination of those factors.³ Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment with modest progress in recent years, although food insecurity has risen sharply in parts of Africa during the first half of 2014 owing to increased conflict, civil unrest and displacement.⁴ Adverse weather conditions and an escalation of conflicts have had a negative impact on crop production and food security in Western Asia, while Southern Asia and Northern Africa are progressing slowly. Significant reductions in both the number of people who are undernourished and the prevalence of undernourishment have occurred in most countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, as well as in Latin America.⁵

9. In contrast to 2012, during which agricultural commodities were affected by adverse weather conditions, 2013 saw an overall rise in global production of most agricultural commodities. Production increases were particularly pronounced for cereals, which rose to record levels as a result of good growing conditions in producing countries. Global production of oilseed is setting a new record in 2013-14. Significant surplus production of vegetable meal, vegetable oil and sugar cane has allowed countries to rebuild stocks and increase trading activities. International prices of most crops have fallen, largely in response to positive supply. World ethanol and biodiesel prices continued their declines from the historical peak levels they had reached in 2011, in a context of ample supply for both.⁶

10. In contrast, meat and dairy product prices are at historically high levels, primarily because their supply fell short of expectations in 2013, and global demand continues to rise. Increasing urbanization is a major driving force influencing global demand for livestock products; it stimulates improvements in infrastructure, including cold chains, which permit trade in perishable goods. Compared with the less diversified diets of rural communities, city dwellers have a varied diet that is rich in animal proteins and fats, and is characterized by higher consumption of meat and poultry and milk and other dairy products.⁶

³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development and World Food Programme, 2013, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013: The multiple dimensions of food security* (Rome, 2013).

⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture, *Crop Prospects and Food Situation*, No. 2, July 2014.

⁵ OECD-FAO *Agricultural Outlook 2014*, OECD Publishing (http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/agr_outlook-2014-en).

⁶ WHO, 2014 (http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/3_foodconsumption/en/index4.html).

11. The combination of global population growth, urbanization, increased levels of development, higher living standards, and rising income are also key drivers of the increase in the demand for fish and seafood and in the development of fisheries. Demand has been rising in both the developed and developing world at more than 2.5 per cent per year since 1950, and demand is likely to continue rising.⁷ Moreover, the natural resource base for agriculture continues to decline, and the Millennium Development Goal on ensuring environmental sustainability has not been achieved.

III. Progress in eradicating hunger and malnutrition and providing access to food

12. Progress in eradicating hunger is measured against two globally agreed targets: the 1996 World Food Summit target aims to halve the number of hungry people by 2015, while the Millennium Development Goal target set in 2001 aims to halve the proportion of hungry people by 2015. While achieving the World Food Summit target at the global level is likely out of reach, many individual countries are on track to meet it, and the Millennium Development Goal target remains within reach globally if actions are stepped up and progress continues to improve.⁸

13. Yet in focusing on kilocalories and underweight only, neither of those targets captured the different dimensions of undernutrition, particularly stunting, wasting, and micronutrient deficiencies. Current estimates show that, in absolute numbers, there are more stunted children in Africa than 20 years ago.⁹ Moreover, stunting is thought to have a greater impact than hunger on eventual economic and social outcomes (e.g., loss of gross domestic product (GDP), higher lifelong burden on health systems). A recent study on the costs of hunger in Africa estimates the incremental social and economic cost of stunting to be between 1.9 and 16.5 per cent of GDP,⁹ thus underlining the importance of addressing stunting as a priority in the post-2015 agenda.

A. The Zero Hunger Challenge

14. The Zero Hunger Challenge, which was launched in 2012 at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, provides a compelling vision for the global eradication of hunger with a concise understanding of how to achieve it. The five pillars of the Zero Hunger Challenge — 100 per cent access to adequate food all year round; zero stunted children under age 2; all food systems are sustainable; 100 per cent increase in smallholder productivity and income; and zero loss or waste of food — capture the interlinked dimensions of the holistic and multidimensional approach necessary to tackle the challenges of food insecurity and malnutrition. The Challenge provides a useful framework for governments' national

⁷ High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, *Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition* (Rome, June 2014).

⁸ UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (UNICEF, New York; WHO, Geneva; The World Bank, Washington, D.C., 2012).

⁹ The Cost of Hunger Study in Africa is a multi-country study aimed at estimating the economic and social impacts of child undernutrition in Africa. It is led by the African Union Commission and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and is supported by the Economic Commission for Africa and WFP.

plans to address hunger and its underlying causes and for coordination by United Nations organizations in support of those plans.³

15. Actions are currently under way in more than 30 countries, within regional organizations, and globally. Recent efforts have focused on three main areas: accelerating progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goal target on hunger by 2015; ensuring that food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture remain high on the list of goals and targets in the post-2015 development agenda; and doing more to enable farmers — in particular women farmers — to adapt to the effects of climate change.

B. Committee on World Food Security

16. The Committee on World Food Security is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform on agriculture, food security and nutrition issues. During its fortieth session, held in October 2013 in Rome, the Committee welcomed the work of the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security and its reports on Biofuels and Food Security¹⁰ and Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security.¹¹ The Committee produced recommendations on enhancing policy coherence for food security and biofuels, promoting research and development on biofuels and food security, and linking energy with food security, and additional policy recommendations on supporting investments in smallholder agriculture. Those recommendations were also offered as input to the ongoing consultations of the Committee on the principles for responsible agricultural investments.

17. The Committee on World Food Security also officially endorsed the commencement of work to facilitate country-initiated multi-stakeholder assessments on sustainable food production, food security and nutrition as mandated by the outcome document of the Conference on Sustainable Development.¹² The facilitation of such assessments is in line with the Committee's core mission of facilitating support and advising countries on the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their nationally and regionally owned plans of action for the elimination of hunger and the achievement of food security and nutrition.¹³

18. In 2013, the Committee on World Food Security launched a consultative process to develop and ensure broad ownership of an Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises. Protracted crisis situations that present severe levels of food insecurity are recognized to be a special category requiring a broad set of related policy and operational responses. The Committee is also negotiating the establishment of Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments. The principles are expected to promote investments in agriculture that contribute to food security and nutrition and that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

¹⁰ High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 2013).

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Resolution 66/288, annex, para. 115.

¹³ Available from http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Does0910/ReformDoc/CFS_2009_2_Rev_2_E_K7197.pdf.

19. In 2013 the Committee on World Food Security developed a second version of its Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, a living document whose purpose is to improve coordination and guide synchronized action by a wide range of stakeholders. The framework consolidates relevant recommendations adopted by the Committee plenary and takes into account other existing frameworks, guidelines and coordination processes at all levels. In line with the mandate of the Committee plenary, the framework draws on a number of earlier frameworks and is intended to complement them and ensure coherence among them. In particular, it draws upon the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the Final Declaration of the 2009 World Summit on Food Security, the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

20. Other documents that have contributed to preparation of the framework include the United Nations Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action, the Group of Eight L'Aquila Joint Statement on Global Food Security, the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development,¹⁴ the Scaling Up Nutrition Framework and Road map and the Final Declaration of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. In addition to global frameworks, a number of regional frameworks, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, have also contributed.

21. The main added value of the global strategic framework is to provide an overarching framework and a single reference document with practical guidance on core recommendations for food security and nutrition strategies, policies and actions validated by the wide ownership, participation and consultation afforded by the Committee on World Food Security. As a dynamic instrument, it will be updated annually to incorporate decisions and recommendations adopted by the Committee plenary.

C. Scaling up nutrition

22. The Scaling Up Nutrition Movement is a renewed effort to eliminate all forms of malnutrition, based on the principle that everyone has a right to food and good nutrition. The movement brings together governments, civil society, the United Nations system, donors, businesses and scientists in a collective action to improve nutrition in countries where it is most needed. As of July 2014, 53 countries have committed to scaling up nutrition.¹⁵

23. By participating in the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, countries are working together to establish and advance new, transformative ways of working. Within their national development programmes, they are focused on effective implementation of both specific actions for nutrition and nutrition-sensitive strategies, including encouraging exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months of age and continued breastfeeding together with appropriate and nutritious food up to 2 years of age and beyond; enabling access to nutrients through incorporating them into foods;

¹⁴ Available from <http://www.unep.org/dewa/agassessment/index.html>.

¹⁵ Available from <http://scalingupnutrition.org>.

micronutrient supplementation through direct provision of extra nutrients; and enabling people with moderate and severe malnutrition to access effective treatment. In addition, the movement has made progress in incorporating strategies that link nutrition to agriculture, clean water, sanitation, education, employment, social protection, health care and support for resilience.

D. Increasing cooperation

24. It is widely agreed that increased collaboration and coordination are necessary to speed up the implementation of agreed goals and targets on hunger and food security. Organizations of the United Nations system have been increasingly working together through various collaborative bodies to consult regularly, share knowledge and streamline agendas to avoid duplication and support joint efforts.

25. FAO, IFAD and WFP are also working closely with the Committee on World Food Security and with other entities in the High-level Task Force for Global Food Security, to meet the Zero Hunger Challenge. In September 2013, UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank reported new joint estimates of child malnutrition using available data up to 2012. An interactive dashboard presents the updated prevalence estimates and numbers affected for stunting, underweight, overweight, wasting and severe wasting by the different regional classification.¹⁶

26. The Second International Conference on Nutrition will be held in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014, jointly organized by FAO and WHO, in cooperation with other international organizations. The Conference will be a high-level ministerial conference that will propose a flexible policy framework to address today's major nutrition challenges and identify priorities for enhanced international cooperation on nutrition. A technical paper on "maximizing the contribution of fish to human nutrition" will be considered by the Conference, highlighting the important role that fish play in nutritional objectives.

27. While there are different dimensions of hunger and malnutrition, food security itself is also a complex condition. Its dimensions — availability, access, utilization and stability — are understood more completely by examining sets of indicators related to dietary quality, frequency of food consumption, infrastructure, water availability, access to land, price volatility and market access. Growth can raise incomes and reduce hunger, but higher economic growth may not reach everyone. While poverty eradication remains at the centre of the development agenda, growth and rising incomes do not necessarily correlate closely with improved food security and nutrition. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of people living in extreme poverty was more than halved, while over the same period, the number of undernourished declined by only 17 per cent.³

28. Moreover, access to adequate food is equally important to the eradication of hunger as food production. There is sufficient capacity and resources in the world to ensure adequate food and good nutrition for everyone. Nevertheless, and in spite of progress made over the last two decades, an estimated 841 million people still suffer from chronic hunger.

¹⁶ Available from <http://www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/estimates2012/en/>.

29. The problem of how to best address interlinked issues of hunger, nutrition, and food security requires a twin-track approach. The twin-track approach requires specific and urgent attention to both short- and longer-term interventions to address food insecurity and malnutrition. Short-term interventions include actions that are taken to ensure immediate access to adequate food for the most vulnerable. The long-term interventions build resilience and address the root causes of hunger. Both tracks need to be coordinated and simultaneous in order to successfully fight hunger and progressively realize the right to access adequate food.

30. WFP reports that, in 2013, 7.9 million people received a total of \$506 million in assistance for resilience building in the form of cash, vouchers or a combination of the two, through 88 programmes in 52 countries, enabling local communities to procure food through local markets, increase access to food, and strengthen local food distribution systems through construction or repair of roads, bridges and wells.¹⁷ This is one example of a solution that is aligned with the twin-track approach as it provides food assistance while building lasting resilience for enhanced food and nutrition security and it reduces vulnerability.

31. Long-term commitment to mainstreaming food security and nutrition in public policies and programmes is key to hunger reduction. Policies aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity sustainably, especially for smallholders, combined with social protection policies and programmes, will address food insecurity and malnutrition while ensuring that social benefits are derived from economic growth over the long term. Remittances, which have globally become three times larger than official development assistance, have had significant impacts on poverty and food security.

32. A recent study compared 45 countries' performance in the past year over 22 indicators on public spending, policies and programmes and legal frameworks; instruments that governments can employ to enhance food security and nutrition.¹⁸ In those countries with high and/or growing hunger and undernutrition prevalence, some clearly show greater political commitment to address those problems. However, a commitment to tackle hunger does not correlate to an equal commitment to address undernutrition. The study also found extreme variation in relative commitment levels among countries with high levels of stunting, and in countries where stunting has increased over the past two decades, current levels of political commitment are either low or very low. Many countries in this position are currently being or have recently been affected by conflict.

33. School feeding programmes are social safety nets that are effective at reducing hunger; school meals act as income transfers for the household as they help families to educate their children and protect their food security in times of crisis. A recent report produced by WFP¹⁹ assessed school feeding programmes throughout the world — the first such assessment carried out on a global scale — and noted that at least 368 million pre-primary-, primary- and secondary-school children receive food through schools around the world, based on a sample of 169 countries. Given the information available about the number of children receiving school meals and the

¹⁷ *World Food Programme Achievements in 2013*, Rome, 2013.

¹⁸ Dolf J. H. Te Lintelo, Lawrence J. Haddad, Rajith Lakshman, Karine Gatellier, *The Hunger And Nutrition Commitment Index (Hanci 2013): Measuring The Political Commitment To Reduce Hunger And Undernutrition In Developing Countries*, Institute of Development Studies, 2014.

¹⁹ World Food Programme, *State of School Feeding Worldwide 2013*, Rome, 2013.

current knowledge of the per capita cost of school feeding, the report estimated that there is a global yearly investment of between \$47 billion and \$75 billion — most of which is from government budgets.

34. In high- and middle-income countries, school feeding is often integrated into broader social welfare systems. By contrast, coverage of school feeding programmes is the least adequate in developing countries with the greatest need. Current estimates suggest that while nearly 50 per cent of schoolchildren receive free meals in middle-income countries, the figure for low-income countries is 18 per cent.²⁰ This highlights the challenge for low-income countries to ensure similar institutionalization, sustainability and efficiency of school feeding programmes in the face of limited resources and capacities.

35. Despite some economic progress, Africa remains the world's most food insecure continent, with relatively low levels of agricultural productivity, low rural incomes, and high rates of malnutrition. Yet while the majority of countries in need of food assistance are in the African region, India — the world's second most populous country — has the highest absolute number of food-insecure people; 25 per cent of the world's hungry live in India. The country's newly ratified National Food Security Act is the largest right to food programme of its kind: it extends coverage of the country's Targeted Public Distribution System, allocating rations of subsidized cereals (about 90 per cent below retail price) through a network of fair price shops to more than 800 million people, or two thirds of the country's population. Implementation of the National Food Security Act on this scale will be a major challenge.

IV. Progress in sustainably increasing agricultural productivity

36. It is widely agreed that in order to avert future food crises, agricultural productivity must be increased in ways that are sustainable, resilient and conducive to rural development and poverty reduction. While the world's cultivated land areas have grown by 12 per cent over the past 50 years, agricultural production has roughly tripled owing to significant increases in the yields of major crops. Presently, on a global scale, the production per capita is about 4,600 calories, or double the actual need.²¹ Increased production in some regions of the world is associated with degradation of land and water resources and the deterioration of related ecosystems, including biodiversity, biomass, carbon storage, soil health, water storage and supply. Much of the agricultural expansion has been at the expense of forests: between 2000 and 2010, 13 million hectares of forests were lost each year through conversion to other land uses. However, forests are crucial for sustainable agriculture as they protect soils, regulate water flows, serve as gene pools and maintain a healthy climate. As a result, agriculture productivity growth is slowing down in many parts of the world.²²

37. OECD-FAO predicts that global agricultural production will grow at an average of 1.5 per cent annually over the next 10 years, compared with 2.1 per cent

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Jo Lundqvist, C. de Fraiture and D. Molden, *Saving Water: From Field to Fork — Curbing Losses and Wastage in the Food Chain*. Policy Brief, Stockholm International Water Institute, 2008.

²² P. Kumar and S. Mittal (2006), "Agricultural Productivity Trends in India: Sustainability Issues", *Agricultural Economics Research Review*, Vol. 19 (Conference Number), pp. 71-88.

in the previous decade. Global cereal production is expected to increase by 1.4 per cent per year in the next decade, with 57 per cent of total growth coming from middle-income and low-income countries. Growth is expected to be slower in all crop sectors and in livestock production. These trends reflect rising costs, growing resource constraints and increasing environmental pressures, which are expected to inhibit supply response in virtually all regions.

38. Agricultural knowledge, science and technology has contributed to substantial increases in agricultural production over time. Increases in productivity have contributed to a net increase in global food availability per person and general food security. However, people have benefited unevenly from those yield increases across regions and negative impacts on environmental sustainability have been experienced.²³ This situation and the relatively low food prices in industrial countries have led to significant pre- and post-retail wastage, increasing the pressure on already strained natural resources. Sustaining agricultural productivity in the long run to meet the food security needs of future generations will require design and adoption of ecologically and socially sustainable agriculture and food systems at the global, national and local levels, including better targeted investments in, legal frameworks and forms of association that provide secure access to knowledge, information, credit, markets, land and water for individuals and communities with modest resources, and support to climate-adapted agricultural practices (see report of the Secretary-General on agricultural technology for development (A/68/308)). Furthermore, better land use planning is needed to halt the degradation of the natural resource base for agriculture, especially loss of forest resources.

A. Support for smallholder farmers

39. To realize the full potential of smallholder agriculture, there is a need to remove the constraints that limit its investment capacity. The first objective is to support investments by smallholders themselves, but their capacity to do so depends on other related investments in collective action, in public goods and supportive rural infrastructure.²⁴

40. To be more effective, policies need to be integrated in the sense that each policy should support (rather than hinder) the other. For example, investments in appropriate research and extension will not necessarily lead to smallholder income improvements unless investments are also made in accessing and creating new markets. Similarly, investments in infrastructure work better if they support the models of production and markets that are appropriate to smallholders and, furthermore, these investments would need to be bolstered by measures to secure tenure rights.²⁵

41. At its sixty-sixth session, the General Assembly declared 2014 the International Year of Family Farming, and invited FAO to facilitate its implementation. The international year was officially launched on 22 November 2013 at United Nations Headquarters, and events included five regional dialogues that engaged family farmers

²³ International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development, Summary for Decision Makers of the Global Report (2009).

²⁴ High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, *Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security* (Rome, 2013).

²⁵ Ibid.

and representatives from governments, the scientific community, civil society organizations, and the private sector. The dialogues aimed to identify the main challenges and opportunities for family farming in each region, and the main tenets of an enabling policy environment for family farming as a central component for achieving food and nutrition security, and effectively eradicating hunger and rural poverty. At the request of the International Steering Committee of the International Year of Family Farming, the 2014 FAO regional conferences provided forums for constructive dialogue among those stakeholders, and further defined the scope of the work and priorities of FAO in support of family farming at the regional level.

42. The African Union in turn declared 2014 as their Year of Agriculture and Food Security, marking the tenth anniversary of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. This has highlighted both the sustained growth of Africa's economies and the need to refresh the programme towards greater results and impact. Ten years later, only eight countries — Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Niger and Senegal — have reached or exceeded the 10 per cent spending target agreed in the Maputo Declaration, and nine — Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Congo-Brazzaville, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania — have achieved agricultural growth of more than 6 per cent per annum.

43. The twenty-eighth session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held in March 2014, produced assessments of the lessons learned by African governments, the African Union Commission and NEPAD, and Africa's development partners from the past decade of experience, and discussed recommendations in four key areas: identifying and agreeing on an African-led policy coherence, coordination and implementation agenda; providing the enabling environment for investment by the domestic private sector, including smallholder and family farmers; investing in a home-grown science, technology and learning agenda that is responsive to the needs and goals of smallholder farmers; and determining how the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme can more effectively contribute to building systemic capacity for results-oriented action and implementation.

44. Family farmers produce at least 56 per cent of all agricultural production worldwide,²⁶ and smallholder farmers are producing at least 80 per cent of all food consumed in Africa's food markets. With supportive, stable policies and greater participation in policy processes, smallholder farmers have demonstrated that they can respond positively to policy and market opportunities.²⁷ For example, WFP launched its Purchase for Progress pilot programme in 2008, and within five years has engaged in over 500 partnerships, 286 of which were formalized through agreements and 63 of which are under negotiation, to provide smallholder farmers in 20 pilot countries²⁸ with greater incentives to invest in boosting their production, with the possibility to sell to a reliable buyer and receive a fair price for their crops.

²⁶ FAO, 2014. Family Farmers: Feeding the world, caring for the earth. Infographic. <http://www.fao.org/resources/infographics/infographics-details/en/c/230925/>.

²⁷ FAO, 2014. *State of Food and Agriculture in the Africa Region and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Implementation with a Specific Focus on Smallholder Farmers and Family Farming*. Africa Regional Conference, March 2014. ARC/14/3.

²⁸ Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia.

Approximately 400,000 metric tons of food have been contracted through the Purchase for Progress project, with \$150 million generated for smallholder farmers.

45. Through the Purchase for Progress programme, WFP also tests innovative ways to buy staple food and promote marketing opportunities for smallholder farmers. The Purchase for Progress project leverages the demand of WFP, and with the expertise and resources of partners it supports smallholder farmers to achieve better yields, reduce their losses after the harvest, and improve the quality of their staple crops. Moreover, the Purchase for Progress programme gathers and shares lessons on effective approaches to connect smallholder farmers to markets in a sustainable way and share them widely with stakeholders. The programme also invests in capacity-building at the country level, in areas such as post-harvest handling and storage, which will yield sustainable results in boosting national food security over the long term. Following the leadership of WFP, it is hoped that other buyers of staple commodities, including governments and the private sector, will also increasingly be able to buy from smallholders.

B. Increasing resilience

46. Climate change acts as a multiplier of existing threats to food security, hunger and malnutrition. It will make natural disasters more frequent and intense, fertile land and water more scarce and difficult to access, and increases in agricultural productivity even harder to achieve. This could potentially intensify conflicts over scarcer resources, precipitating humanitarian crises, migration and displacement. Government ownership and leadership are key for any sustainable efforts aimed at enhancing food production, improving food access, scaling up social protection systems and implementing community-based adaptation programmes that build resilience against climate hazards and improve disaster preparedness and response. WFP is engaged in climate change adaptation and risk reduction in developing countries with high levels of food insecurity, while FAO is engaged in the action areas related to climate-resilient agriculture and deforestation, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is considering the concept of a land-degradation neutral world, based on the respective decision of the Conference on Sustainable Development to strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world.

47. In June 2014, the FAO Committee on Forestry invited countries to work actively towards achieving zero illegal deforestation, in the framework of developing sustainable and more integrated land use policies and to step up efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and to invest in afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration. The United Nations Programme to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD), a collaborative initiative by FAO, UNEP and UNDP in developing countries, supports national REDD readiness efforts in 53 partner countries, spanning Africa, the Asia-Pacific region and Latin America.

48. In 2014, the Climate Summit on 23 September will serve as a public platform for leaders at the highest level to catalyse ambitious action on the ground to reduce emissions and strengthen climate resilience; and to mobilize political will for an ambitious global agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by 2015. "Action Areas", or multi-partner initiatives, will be launched at the Summit, including through a new Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture. Every effort must be made to ensure that the Alliance promotes

inclusion of all relevant stakeholders and abides by multi-stakeholder national assessments.

49. The World Economic Forum's *New Vision for Agriculture*²⁹ involves 33 companies and 14 countries in transformative partnerships for food systems, reaching 2.8 million smallholder farmers. The concept of climate-smart agriculture will be discussed during the upcoming meetings of Grow Africa,³⁰ a partnership platform supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, and Grow Asia, a similar multi-stakeholder platform that supports regional food security and sustainable agriculture.

50. In order to end hunger and enhance resilience building, a stronger commitment from governments in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2 (post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction) is needed to integrate disaster risk reduction in the development and investments plans of the food and agricultural sectors as well as in rural infrastructure and in education. Climate change adaptation strategies relevant to food security and nutrition should also be mainstreamed into all aquaculture and fisheries policies and actions at national and subnational levels, including by linking them to climate and weather research and prediction, developing specific studies and introducing, where needed, flexibility in management and governance mechanisms.⁷

V. Progress in ensuring that all food systems are sustainable

51. A world free from poverty, hunger and malnutrition cannot be achieved without a shift to resilient, diverse and productive agriculture and food systems, including sustainable natural resources management and reduction of food losses and waste along the value chain. A food system gathers all the elements and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the outputs of these activities, including socioeconomic and environmental outcomes in a systemic framework. A sustainable food system is one that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised,³¹ but enhanced.³²

52. In March 2014, the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production approved a proposal from FAO and UNEP for a new programme on sustainable food systems. The proposal builds on the existing work of the FAO-UNEP sustainable food systems programme established in 2011 and of the Agri-food Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Production, and is expected to be launched in May 2015. The goal of the new programme is "to protect natural resources and promote a more efficient use of natural resources, products and recovered materials based on a solid scientific and policy knowledge base, by improving resource efficiency and reducing the pollution intensity of food systems, all along food chains, from production to consumption, while improving food and nutrition security".

²⁹ Available from <http://www.weforum.org/issues/agriculture-and-food-security#nva>.

³⁰ Available from <http://growafrica.com>.

³¹ High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, *Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems* (Rome 2014).

³² Avoiding Future Famines: Strengthening the Ecological Foundation of Food Security through Sustainable Food Systems. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi.

53. Outcomes will be evaluated through metrics based on enhanced data collection, including on policy, regulatory and voluntary instruments, as well as on sustainability indicators and the number of active partnerships and projects developed as a result of the programme, with particular focus on developing countries.

A. Reducing losses and waste

54. Reduction of food losses and waste is frequently considered to be a promising path towards reducing hunger and increasing the sustainability of food systems. Given that many smallholder farmers in developing countries live on the verge of food insecurity, a reduction in food losses in those countries could have an immediate and significant impact on their livelihoods. According to FAO, if food losses and waste could be halved, the required increase of available food to feed the world population by 2050 would only need to be 25 per cent, and not 60 per cent as currently projected.³³ Considering its nature and causes, halving food losses and waste could be a feasible target based on technical, economic, environmental and social considerations.

55. A report released in June 2014 by the High-level Panel of Experts defines food losses and waste as “a decrease, at all stages of the food chain from harvest to consumption, in mass, of food that was originally intended for human consumption, regardless of the cause”. The distinction is made between food losses, occurring before consumption level regardless of the cause, and food waste, occurring at consumption level regardless of the cause. The report also defines food quality loss or waste as the decrease of a quality attribute of food linked to the degradation of the product, at all stages of the food chain from harvest to consumption.³¹

56. The findings note that food losses and waste are consequences of the way food systems function — technically, culturally and economically. Food losses and waste are analysed with a triple perspective: a systemic perspective, a sustainability perspective — including the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainability — and a food security and nutrition perspective, looking at how food losses and waste relate to the various dimensions of food security and nutrition.³¹

57. The High-level Panel of Experts recommends undertaking four parallel, mutually supportive tracks in an inclusive and participatory manner: improve data collection and knowledge sharing on food losses and waste; develop effective strategies to reduce food losses and waste, at the appropriate levels; take effective steps to reduce food losses and waste; and improve coordination of policies and strategies in order to reduce food losses and waste.

58. The Save Food Initiative, and its Think.Eat.Save Campaign, both launched in response to the Zero Hunger Challenge, are good examples of efforts to raise awareness among consumers and encourage dialogue on food losses among industry, research, politics and civil society. In December 2013, FAO, WFP and IFAD agreed to work together on a three-year project to address food losses in developing countries. The project focuses on reducing losses of grains and pulses, such as maize, rice, beans and cow peas, which are staple foods that play a significant role in global food security and have a major impact on the livelihoods

³³ Food Losses and Waste in Europe and Central Asia. Document ERC/14/3, FAO 2014 (available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/030/mj621e.pdf>).

of millions of smallholder farmers. This joint initiative aims to share knowledge at the global level on the most effective ways to reduce post-harvest losses and help countries introduce policies and regulations to cut down on wastage at both national and regional levels.³⁴

B. Food price volatility, trade and investment

59. Established at the request of the Group of 20, the Agricultural Market Information System is an inter-agency platform to enhance food market transparency and encourage coordination of policy action in response to market uncertainty. The System also undertakes research activities to better understand market developments and identify indicators to monitor market and policy conditions, and identifies and addresses knowledge gaps and technical needs in participating countries. The initiative includes five main outputs: information collection; research; capacity development; dissemination; and policy dialogue.

60. The activity of the Agricultural Market Information System has recently shifted from data collection and review to preparation of short-term forecasts for the 2013-14 marketing season. The "Agricultural Market Information System Market Monitor" has improved information dissemination, and progress has been made in the areas of policy indicators, research and analysis. For example, country case studies have investigated methodologies for improved feed estimation and analysed price transmission from global benchmarks to producer prices; follow-up research on food and energy linkages has explored possible biofuel indicators; and a global scoping report has compiled current knowledge on stocks estimation. In addition, activities in the five target countries receiving capacity development — Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, Thailand and the Philippines — have gradually commenced.³⁵

61. Responsible investments in agriculture are a top priority from the perspective of both donors and recipients. An inclusive consultation process known as Committee on World Food Security-Responsible Agricultural Investments was launched during the thirty-ninth session of the Committee on World Food Security to develop and ensure broad ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investments and is expected to produce a set of principles to promote investments in agriculture that contribute to sustainable and durable food security and nutrition. The final version of the principles will be adopted by the Committee in October this year.

62. In December 2013, agreement was reached on a small number of issues under negotiation in the long-running Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) Negotiations. The set of issues, broadly known as the Bali package after the location of the ninth WTO Ministerial Conference during which the agreement was reached, comprised three main components, one of which related to the use of public procurement for food stockholding which can be used by developing countries in pursuit of food security objectives. The resulting Bali agreement, *inter alia*, establishes that, until a permanent solution is found, members shall refrain from challenging, through the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism, compliance of a

³⁴ *Developments in Forums of Importance for the Mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations* (CL 149/INF/4).

³⁵ *Agricultural Market Information System Progress and Activities October 2013 to May 2014*. Fifth Session of the Agricultural Market Information System Global Food Market Information Group (May 2014).

developing member with its obligations in relation to trade-distorting domestic support to traditional staple food crops through existing public stockholding programmes for food security purposes.³⁶

63. The Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, now in its fifth year following its establishment by the Group of 20 in 2009, supports medium- and long-term interventions to ensure strong and stable policies and increased investment in agriculture in the most vulnerable countries. It picks up where emergency funding leaves off, and works with countries to develop in a sustainable way, so that they can be more resilient to climate, political, and market shocks in the future. It focuses on agricultural productivity growth, linking farmers to markets, and increased capacity and technical skills.

64. The Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme is country-led, supporting countries' priorities reflected in their national agriculture and food security investment plans, and provides a platform for coordinated donor financing around country programmes and sustainable private sector investment. It is divided into two distinct windows for financing: the public sector window assists strategic country-led or regional programmes that result from sector-wide country or regional consultations and planning exercises, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme in Africa; and the private sector window is designed to provide long- and short-term loans, credit guarantees, and equity to support private sector activities for agricultural development and food security. \$1.2 billion in financing has been received to date — \$979.2 million to the public sector window and \$238.3 million to the private sector window.³⁷

65. As of March 2014, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme is funding projects in 10 countries,³⁸ where the majority of direct beneficiaries are women, and 15 projects include nutrition-related activities totalling about \$100 million. The Programme expects to reach over 13 million beneficiaries, mainly smallholder farmers and their families. Early results are showing very promising impacts. In some countries, incomes have increased by up to 200 per cent for the project beneficiaries, yields have quadrupled, and access to basic services has improved with increased incomes.³⁹

VI. Looking ahead: agriculture development, food security and nutrition in the post-2015 development agenda

66. Eliminating hunger, ensuring food security and adequate nutrition, and making agriculture and food systems sustainable will require a more integrated approach across many sectors. In July, the General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals endorsed a proposal for a set of sustainable development goals, including an integrated and comprehensive vision on a proposed goal to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture". The goal includes five targets in support of the most

³⁶ The Bali Package — implications for trade and food security. FAO trade policy briefs, No. 16.

³⁷ Available from <http://www.gafspfund.org/content/funding>.

³⁸ Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Yemen.

³⁹ Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme Fact Sheet: Public and Private Sector Windows. March 2014.

vulnerable, such as women, infants, children, and small-scale food producers by ending hunger and malnutrition and ensuring access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round; access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment. Food losses and waste were also addressed under a goal on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with a target on halving per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reducing food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses.⁴⁰

67. In preparation for the negotiation phase of the post-2015 development agenda during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the President of the Assembly is convening a High-level Stock-taking Event during the sixty-eighth session to reflect upon the various post-2015 development-related processes which have occurred during this session with a view to providing Member States and other stakeholders with an opportunity to identify possible inputs to the synthesis report of the Secretary-General, to the work of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly and, in particular, to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

68. There is an emerging consensus that food security in the post-2015 development agenda should be aligned with the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, which is designed to lift the poorest countries out of poverty. Agriculture, food security and rural development is one of eight priority areas for action. It calls for, *inter alia*, strengthening of food assistance and safety net programmes to address hunger and malnutrition, ensuring access to safe food and emergency food assistance in all least developed countries, the provision of safety nets for poor smallholder farmers, new investments in regional and national agricultural and fishery research and rural infrastructure, extension of better farming and fishing practices and innovative and sustainable technologies, as well as marketing advice, structured and effective finance and greater tenure security, including access to and control over land by women farmers. The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals has incorporated some of the most important priorities of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including targets on building capacity and ensuring means of implementation. Those could be carried forward into the post-2015 development agenda.

69. Targets on nutrition in the post-2015 development agenda should also take into account the 2012 World Health Assembly targets, which touch upon all dimensions of malnutrition: 40 per cent reduction in the number of stunted children under the age of 5 by 2025; 50 per cent reduction of anaemia in women of childbearing age by 2025; 30 per cent reduction of low birth weight by 2025; no increase in children who are overweight by 2025; increase exclusive breastfeeding rates in the first six months up to at least 50 per cent by 2025; and reducing and maintaining childhood wasting to less than 5 per cent.

70. The Open Working Group has also proposed goals and targets related to the protection, restoration and sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems, which include halting biodiversity loss and deforestation. Maintaining the natural resource base for agriculture could be an integral component of the post-2015 development agenda.

⁴⁰ Available from <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>.

71. Meeting the target of halving the number of people suffering from hunger by 2015 will require immediate additional efforts, especially in countries that have made little headway. Efforts to increase investment in sustainable agriculture, support smallholder farmers, and collaborate globally on reducing food losses and waste are increasing, with encouraging progress. It will be important in the post-2015 development agenda to have a coherent framework able to deliver near-term food security and nutrition while ensuring that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised.⁴¹

VII. Recommendations

72. It is important that the post-2015 development agenda incorporate a headline goal, such as is currently contained in Goal Two of the Proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals: "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture". It could also include targets on halting the degradation of the natural resource base for sustainable agriculture.

73. Sustainable development goals and targets relating to agriculture and food security could prioritize ending hunger and malnutrition, address medium-term requirements for ensuring sustainability of food systems, and take into account the importance of maintaining the Earth's natural resources. In this regard, the latest findings of reports produced by the High-level Panel of Experts on food security and nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security can provide useful guidance.⁴²

74. Countries must be enabled to determine their own food security strategies, which are nationally articulated and developed through consultation with all key stakeholders. The Committee on World Food Security is well positioned to provide appropriate advice and supporting tools, such as country-initiated multi-stakeholder assessments on sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition.

75. All indications are that future climate change will pose significant new challenges to food security in many countries. Governments will need to undertake research and make other investments to support the capacity of smallholder farmers to adapt.

76. Continued efforts will be needed to improve the food security and nutritional status of the poor, including through strengthened social protection and safety nets. Safety nets can support access to food in times of crisis, have the potential to accelerate progress in reducing undernutrition and can work, if properly designed, to create demand and stimulate production among smallholder farmers.

⁴¹ Available from http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/HLPE_Reports/HLPE-Report-8_EN.pdf.

⁴² Ibid.

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Item 113 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and
other elections: election of fifteen members of the
Human Rights Council****Note verbale dated 23 July 2014 from the Permanent Mission of
Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
General Assembly**

The Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to state that Portugal has decided to submit its candidature for membership in the Human Rights Council, for the term 2015-2017, at the elections to be held in New York during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

The decision stems from the long-standing commitment of Portugal to respect and promote human rights for all. This principle is enshrined in the Portuguese Constitution and is a key priority of the Government, at home and abroad.

At the national level, Portugal continuously strives to do more and better. In this regard, the establishment of the Portuguese National Human Rights Committee in 2010 was a milestone. At the international level, Portugal is now party, without reservations, to eight core United Nations human rights treaties and all their optional protocols, and thereby recognizes the full range of competences of the respective committees.

By submitting its candidature, Portugal demonstrates its willingness to contribute further to the protection and promotion of the universality, indivisibility, inalienability and interdependence of all human rights.

The Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations has the honour to transmit herewith information regarding the contribution made by Portugal to the promotion and protection of human rights and its voluntary pledges and commitments, prepared in conformity with General Assembly resolution 60/251 (see annex). The Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations.

* A/69/150.



Annex to the note verbale dated 23 July 2014 from the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Portugal to the Human Rights Council, 2015-2017

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

Permanent commitment of Portugal to human rights

Portugal is strongly committed to promoting and respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. This principle is enshrined in its Constitution and is a key priority of its Government, both at home and abroad.

Portugal firmly upholds the values and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations. Accordingly, the defence of effective multilateralism and the primacy of the United Nations in international affairs is a pillar of Portuguese foreign policy.

The commitment of Portugal to human rights has guided its mandates as non-permanent member of the Security Council and its work in the Third Committee of the General Assembly, in the former Human Rights Commission and, since its creation in 2006, in the Human Rights Council.

Portugal fully supports a strong, independent and effective United Nations human rights system — one that contributes to improving the situation of human rights worldwide.

Portugal is party to eight core United Nations human rights treaties and all their optional protocols, which are directly applicable in the internal legal system after publication in the Portuguese official journal, *Diário da República*.

Portugal has signed and ratified, without reservations:

- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its optional protocols
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its optional protocol
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its optional protocol
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its optional protocol
- The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its optional protocol
- The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

Portugal recognizes the full range of competences of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, in all their scope, including the power to examine individual complaints, complaints between States and the power to carry out processes of inquiry.

Portugal is also party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and recognizes its jurisdiction as compulsory.

At the regional level, Portugal actively supports and participates in the work of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the field of human rights.

In the Council of Europe, Portugal is party to the European Convention on Human Rights and most of its protocols. Portugal recognizes the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights. It is also party to the majority of the conventions on human rights of the Council of Europe and recognizes the competence of the committees established by those conventions.

The Portuguese Ombudsman is the national human rights institution, accredited with "A" status in accordance with the United Nations Paris Principles. It is a well-established independent institution, constitutionally and legally mandated to defend and promote citizens' rights and fundamental freedoms.

At the international level, Portugal is committed to promoting the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions.

In line with its long-standing commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and its support for the role played by the United Nations, if elected to the Human Rights Council, Portugal pledges:

- (a) To participate fully in the work of the Human Rights Council by:
 - (i) Promoting and protecting the universality, indivisibility, inalienability and interdependence of all human rights, be they civil, cultural, economic, social or political;
 - (ii) Establishing an open dialogue and constructive cooperation with all States, both members and non-members of the Council, thereby improving the quality of the debates;
 - (iii) Advocating a horizontal and inclusive approach to human rights issues in all the spheres of action of the United Nations and working for the improvement of the coordination and the efficiency of the United Nations human rights instruments;
 - (iv) Continuing to present its national initiatives on economic, social and cultural rights and on the right to education;
 - (v) Maintaining its standing invitation to the special rapporteurs and to all other special procedures mandate holders to visit Portugal;
 - (vi) Actively participating and supporting the universal periodic review as a key cooperative mechanism aimed at improving respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide;

(vii) Supporting the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Council as a positive and important contribution to strengthening the dialogue between States and civil society;

(viii) Supporting the participation of national human rights institutions in the work of the Council;

(b) To support the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the treaty bodies and the special procedures mandate holders by upholding their independence and efficiency, which are essential for ensuring the implementation by States of their human rights obligations;

(c) To promote and protect human rights at the international level by:

(i) Encouraging all States to become party to the main international human rights instruments and to fully implement their obligations in this field;

(ii) Widely disseminating information regarding human rights obligations, thereby contributing to a greater respect and implementation of these obligations and to ensuring an appropriate response by the international community to human rights violations;

(iii) Promoting the abolition of the death penalty in all countries;

(iv) Promoting the elimination of all forms of discrimination, whether based on ancestry, gender, race, language, territory of origin, religion, political or ideological belief, education, economic situation, social status or sexual orientation;

(v) Promoting and protecting the rights of the child, always giving full priority to the child's best interest;

(vi) Promoting and protecting the rights of those most vulnerable in our societies;

(vii) Promoting respect for economic, social and cultural rights, including through the promotion of the universal ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(viii) Contributing, through our bilateral development aid and through the United Nations system, to strengthening democracy, good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(ix) Promoting the inclusion of a human rights perspective in the post-2015 development agenda;

(x) Encouraging the setting up of national human rights institutions in accordance with the United Nations Paris Principles, as well as encouraging cooperation between these institutions and their respective authorities;

(d) To promote and protect human rights at the national level by:

(i) Reinforcing recognition by Portugal of the complaints procedures and the individual and inter-State inquiries set up by the human rights treaties;

(ii) Continuing to cooperate fully with the treaty bodies, implementing their recommendations and respecting reporting obligations in a timely manner;

- (iii) Implementing those recommendations arising from the universal periodic reviews accepted by Portugal;
- (iv) Continuing to make full use of the Portuguese National Human Rights Committee, an interministerial body set up in 2010 responsible for intergovernmental coordination with the aim of promoting an integrated approach to human rights policies;
- (v) Promoting the adoption of legislation, programmes and policies that have an impact on human rights;
- (vi) Reinforcing further cooperation with civil society;
- (vii) Strengthening the protection and promotion of the rights of women and ensuring that a gender perspective is included in all policies and programmes adopted at the national level;
- (viii) Improving the protection and promotion of the rights of the child and ensuring that a solid perspective on the promotion of the rights of the child is included in all relevant policies and programmes adopted at the national level;
- (ix) Continuing to implement the international obligations and national legislation of Portugal, as well as best practices and internationally agreed guidelines, to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all related forms of intolerance;
- (x) Fully implementing its comprehensive human rights policy instruments, including, its national plan against domestic and gender-based violence, its equality plan, its national plan against trafficking in human beings, its programme of action for the elimination of female genital mutilation, its national action plan on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (2009-2014) and its national strategy for the integration of Roma communities;
- (xi) Developing national human rights indicators to effectively monitor and assess the implementation by Portugal of its obligations;
- (xii) Remaining mindful that an enhanced role abroad comes with a greater responsibility at home to promote and protect human rights for all.

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Item 117 of the provisional agenda*

**Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth
anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade****Programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic
slave trade and slavery****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/7, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on continued action to implement the programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery and the steps taken to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial initiative.

The theme of the commemoration in 2014, "Victory over slavery: Haiti and beyond", paid tribute to the fight against slavery in nations around the world. Haiti was the first nation to become independent as a result of the struggle of enslaved men and women, led by Toussaint Louverture. It is 210 years since the Republic of Haiti was established on 1 January 1804. Working in close collaboration with States members of the Caribbean Community and the African Union, the Department of Public Information organized a series of activities, which started on 24 January and continued throughout the year, including the official observance of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade on 25 March 2014; a film festival on slavery; and an exhibition. The twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Slave Route Project provided another opportunity to organize educational and commemorative events related to slavery.

* A/69/150.



The Department of Public Information mobilized its network of United Nations information centres and used social media platforms to increase the reach of the programme and international awareness of the observance. The Department also initiated new partnerships, and developed existing ones further, with Member States and civil society actors, which greatly helped in enhancing awareness of the permanent memorial initiative.

I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 2007, the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/122, designated 25 March the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.
2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to collaborate with and build on the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), including its Slave Route Project, to establish a programme of educational outreach to inculcate in future generations an understanding of the causes, consequences and lessons of the slave trade and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice.
3. In its follow-up resolutions, including resolution 68/7, the General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to report on continued action to implement the outreach programme and the steps taken to enhance world public awareness of commemorative activities and the permanent memorial initiative.
4. The present report is submitted pursuant to those requests.

II. Background

5. Taking place over a 400-year period, the transatlantic slave trade was the largest forced migration in history. The extensive exodus of Africans to many areas of the world was unprecedented in the annals of recorded human history. The legacy of that migration remains evident today in the large populations of people of African descent living throughout the Americas. In the past few years, efforts have been made to raise public awareness regarding the slave trade and its lasting consequences on societies throughout the world. As part of those efforts, it is essential to recognize the contributions that enslaved people and their descendants have made to the societies that forced them into bondage. The International Decade for People of African Descent, which will start in 2015, will provide an opportunity to showcase those contributions.

III. "Victory over slavery: Haiti and beyond"

6. The theme of the 2014 commemoration, "Victory over slavery: Haiti and beyond," pays tribute to the fight against slavery in nations around the world. Haiti was the first nation to become independent as a result of the struggle of enslaved men and women, led by Toussaint Louverture. It is 210 years since the Republic of Haiti was established on 1 January 1804, and the Haitian insurrection is recognized as a milestone by the liberation movements that fought for the abolition of slavery. The year also marks the twentieth anniversary of the UNESCO Slave Route Project, launched in Ouidah, Benin, in 1994, whereby UNESCO decided to break the silence surrounding the slave trade and slavery. The project has produced multimedia educational materials, available for educators, students and the general public.
7. In order to develop a brand that can be easily recognized, it was decided that the visual theme for the observance in 2014 would be adapted from the visual identity of 2013, featuring a man and a woman breaking their bonds as a symbol of

emancipation and a celebration of freedom. The text accompanying the image was changed to reflect the theme of 2014.

IV. Remembrance activities

8. Working in close collaboration with States members of the Caribbean Community and the African Union, the Department of Public Information organized a series of events which, as agreed with Member States, were spread out more widely throughout the year than had previously been the case. Implementation started in the second half of 2013 and, following the submission of the previous report on 7 August 2013 (A/68/291), a number of activities continued to the end of November. The main objective of the additional activities in 2013 was to help raise greater awareness of the permanent memorial initiative.

Permanent memorial and international design competition

9. The international design competition was concluded over the summer of 2013, with the final judging week taking place at United Nations Headquarters during the last week of August. The seven finalists selected by the international panel of judges were invited to present their projects in person. During that week, the Department organized a screening of the film *Akwantu: The Journey*, attended by director Roy T. Anderson, the panel of judges and the finalists.

10. On 23 September, the Department of Public Information coordinated the unveiling of the winning design. The event took place in the presence of the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Director-General of UNESCO, the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the Permanent Representative of Jamaica in his capacity as Chair of the Permanent Memorial Committee. Rodney Leon, an American architect of Haitian descent, who had also designed the African Burial Ground National Monument in downtown Manhattan, won the international design competition with *The Ark of Return*.

11. On 28 November, Mr. Leon and Michael Gomez of New York University, a member of the international panel of judges, presented the winning project during a lunchtime panel discussion.

12. The Department of Public Information supported the judging and the ensuing process by creating several videos, which were screened at the unveiling ceremony and the presentation on 28 November. *The Ark of Return: Lest We Forget*, a video in the *UN in Action* series, was produced in all six official languages.

Commemoration in 2014 of "Victory over slavery: Haiti and beyond"

13. In 2014, in addition to the formal annual observance of the International Day of Remembrance during the week of 25 March, a series of worldwide commemorative activities were planned throughout the year, with at least one event per month from January to July. Events included solemn ceremonies, cultural events, a global student videoconference and panel discussions during the commemorative week, as well as exhibitions and a film festival.

14. With Haiti at the centre of the commemoration in 2014, the first activity took place on 24 January to celebrate Haitian author Dany Laferrière on the occasion of his election to the French Academy in December 2013. Held in French, the cultural

event brought to the United Nations a large audience from the Haitian diaspora who listened to academics and diplomats and saw a short play based on the work of Mr. Laferrière, who also spoke.

15. Through a partnership with the International Organization of la Francophonie, Cameroonian saxophonist and UNESCO Artist for Peace, Manu Dibango, gave a concert as part of the slavery remembrance commemorative activities on 20 March, the International Day of la Francophonie.

Solemn commemorative meeting of the General Assembly

16. The solemn commemorative meeting of the General Assembly was held on the International Day of Remembrance. Remarks were delivered by the President of the General Assembly and representatives of the regional groups and of the host country. A message from the Secretary-General was read out and statements were also made by representatives of individual Member States, including the Minister of Arts and Culture of Cameroon and the Permanent Representatives of Cuba, Haiti, Japan and Spain.

17. Michaëlle Jean, UNESCO Special Envoy for Haiti and a member of the International Scientific Committee of the Slave Route Project, delivered the keynote address. She recalled the role played by Haiti in inspiring other nations to fight for the abolition of slavery:

From Haiti came the spark that lit the great cauldron of the fight to abolish slavery, particularly in the Americas. Liberty, equality, fraternity — not just for us, Haitian men and women, but for all those in chains, said the President of the young Haitian Republic, Alexandre Pétion, to Simón Bolívar, known as El Libertador, driven from Venezuela and Jamaica in 1815 and given asylum by Pétion.

18. Haitian performer, Emeline Michel, was invited to sing in an informal component of the meeting.

Cultural and culinary event

19. Emeline Michel also performed during the cultural and culinary event on 25 March, which was jointly hosted by the Permanent Missions of Cameroon and Haiti. Cameroonian cuisine was showcased, which had been prepared by chef Emile Engoulou Engoulou, who was flown from Yaoundé to New York by the Ministry of Arts and Culture of Cameroon.

20. Through a partnership with the African Burial Ground National Monument, a theatre performance was presented during the cultural evening. The performance was developed by students from Guinea, Jamaica and Senegal, during a four-day creative workshop conducted at the National Monument.

Global videoconference for students

21. On 26 March, the annual global videoconference brought together 500 students and educators from secondary schools in Haiti, Senegal, Spain and the United States of America. Conducted with simultaneous French and English interpretation, the event was organized with the support of the transatlantic slave trade education project of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network. Sandra Arnold,

founding Director of the Burial Database Project of Enslaved African Americans at Fordham University, moderated the conference.

22. A direct descendent of both Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington, Kenneth B. Morris, founder and President of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, spoke about the influence of his familial ties to slavery and how the current generation could find inspiration from the past. The conference also included remarks by Rodney Leon, who presented the permanent memorial project.

23. The educational value of the videoconference is demonstrated below in a sample of responses to a survey question on the conference: "Please tell us something about the transatlantic slave trade that you did not know before participating in this year's videoconference":

- (a) "I learned that most of the rebellion started in Haiti";
- (b) "Spain was the first country to participate in the transatlantic trade";
- (c) "I did not know about the 'door of no return'";
- (d) "I did not know about Spain's involvement in the slave trade";
- (e) "The transatlantic slave trade was forgotten and not spoken of for many years";
- (f) "At one point in time, New York City was the largest slave-owning city in the United States outside of Richmond";
- (g) "I did not know about the way the slaves and slavery in general were really spread out across many regions of the world";
- (h) "That the trade lasted for 400 years";
- (i) "I did not know that the effects of the Haitian Revolution transcended through other revolutions";
- (j) "I did not know about the effects of slavery in Senegal";
- (k) "I learned that slavery still exists today in the form of human trafficking and prostitution";
- (l) "I did not know about the conditions of the slave ships and that so many slaves committed suicide".

Briefing by the Department of Public Information for non-governmental organizations and panel discussion

24. The briefing for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the theme "Victory over slavery?" was held on 27 March and broadcast live on United Nations Web TV. Panellists included Kenneth Morris, Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives; Sandra Arnold, Burial Database Project of Enslaved African Americans, Fordham University; and Deborah Willis, Chair of the Department of Photography and Imaging, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. The briefing was moderated by James Braxton Peterson, Director of Africana Studies, Lehigh University, Pennsylvania. Panellists addressed the question "Are we victorious over slavery?" and the impact of remembering the transatlantic slave trade. During the briefing, the video *The Ark of Return: Lest We Forget* was screened.

Film festival

25. In 2014, the Department of Public Information decided to leverage the outreach power of film as an educational tool and organized a multilingual film festival featuring films related to slavery and its legacy. The Department engaged with a number of partners for the festival, including the African Burial Ground National Monument, the New York African Film Festival, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, and the International Organization of la Francophonie. Screenings and discussions took place at United Nations Headquarters and other venues in New York, with the sponsorship of a number of permanent missions to the United Nations, as well as in a number of United Nations information centres. The films were in a variety of languages, including English, French, Spanish and Wolof, with follow-up discussions in English and French. The list of films includes:

(a) *12 Years a Slave*, shown on 26 February, in the presence of the Secretary-General, followed by a discussion with the British director of the film, Steve McQueen, moderated by Lawrence O'Donnell of MSNBC;

(b) *Toussaint Louverture* by French-Senegalese director Philippe Niang, shown on 8 March at the African Burial Ground National Monument, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Haiti and the International Organization of la Francophonie;

(c) *Tey*, shown on 18 March, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Senegal and the International Organization of la Francophonie, followed by a discussion with French-Senegalese director of the film, Alain Gomis, and lead actors Saul Williams and Anisia Uzeyman, moderated by Michael Ralph, Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University;

(d) *Belle*, shown on 2 April, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, followed by a discussion with British director of the film, Amma Asante, and lead actress Gugu Mbatha-Raw, moderated by T. J. Holmes of MSNBC;

(e) *Sarraounia*, by Mauritanian director Med Hondo shown on 13 May at Lincoln Center, in New York, in partnership with the New York African Film Festival;

(f) *Coeur de Lion*, by director Boubakar Diallo of Burkina Faso, shown on 14 May, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso in partnership with the International Organization of la Francophonie and the New York African Film Festival, followed by a discussion with lead actor Mahamadi Nana, Mamadou Diouf of Columbia University and film critic Zeba Blay of the Huffington Post. Also screened in Antananarivo, Brazzaville, Bujumbura, Ouagadougou and Tunis;

(g) *They Are We*, by Australian director Emma Christopher, shown on 11 July at Joyce Kilmer Park, New York, in partnership with the New York African Film Festival and the Bronx Museum of the Arts;

(h) *Akwantu: The Journey*, by Jamaican-American director Roy Anderson, shown at United Nations information centres and offices in Accra, Dar es Salaam, Harare, Lagos, Minsk and Yerevan.

Exhibition

26. The exhibition "Victory over slavery: Haiti and beyond" opened in mid-June and had its media launch on 27 June, during which the Permanent Representatives of Haiti and Jamaica and Rodney Leon delivered remarks. Hosted by the Permanent Missions of Haiti and Jamaica, the high-level official opening took place on 10 July, during which the Secretary-General, the Director-General of UNESCO, the Permanent Representatives of Haiti and Jamaica and the Permanent Observer of the African Union delivered remarks. The exhibition remained on display until 14 September.

27. With an overview of the transatlantic slave trade as a backdrop, the exhibition focused on the struggle of slaves for independence in Haiti and the establishment of the Republic in 1804. The design of the permanent memorial to honour the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, *The Ark of Return* by Rodney Leon, was showcased. The UNESCO Slave Route Project was also featured, with panels recording sites of memory and a display of educational publications. Sergio Leyva Seiglie's photographs of the documentary film *They Are We* provided an additional component, illustrating the theme of the return.

Twentieth anniversary of the Slave Route Project

28. Two events will be organized in September at United Nations Headquarters by the Department of Public Information in partnership with UNESCO to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Slave Route Project, in addition to the anniversary being featured in the exhibition. On 4 September, the first event will consist of a round-table discussion on the representation of slavery in film, a follow-up to a UNESCO round table on the same topic which was held in Zanzibar in 2006. Film scholars and representatives of the movie industry will take part in the discussion.

29. The second event, on 5 September, will consist of a panel discussion for educators. The UNESCO publication, *The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Slavery: New Directions in Teaching and Learning* (2013), will provide the background for the discussion. The two editors of the publication will discuss the psychological consequences of the slave trade and slavery and share with the educators in attendance their experiences of teaching about the slave trade and slavery.

Outreach through United Nations information centres in collaboration with civil society organizations and Member States

30. An increased number of United Nations information centres, services and offices around the world took part in the programme in 2014. In total, 20 members of the network organized activities, representing an increase of 25 per cent over 2013. Educational outreach activities to raise awareness of the programme were organized in collaboration with local partners, including host Governments, media, civil society, youth associations and academic and cultural institutions.

31. Through an innovative approach, in the context of the film festival, 11 United Nations information centres were grouped together to organize remote discussions on two films related to slavery, for which the "Remember slavery" programme had negotiated the screening rights. Following the screening, students held a videoconference exchange across duty stations about what they had learned from the film. That interaction allowed them to compare their understanding of slavery and

the transatlantic slave trade. *Akwantu: The Journey* was presented in English and the following United Nations information centres organized discussions: Accra and Dar es Salaam on 24 March; Minsk and Yerevan on 28 March (discussion also in Russian); and Harare and Lagos on 1 April. *Coeur de Lion* was presented in French and remote discussions took place as follows: Brazzaville, Ouagadougou, and Tunis on 31 March; and Antananarivo and Bujumbura on 2 April.

32. Other activities undertaken by United Nations information centres for the commemoration included the following:

(a) On 25 March, the United Nations information centre in Accra organized an educative tour of several slave sites in Salaga in the East Gonja district in northern Ghana for selected students of three senior high schools in the area. The tour brought together 200 participants, including 130 students and representatives from local government, the media, museums and monuments in Ghana. It also provided an opportunity for them to increase their understanding of the link between slavery in West Africa and the Caribbean. A brief exchange between students and officials concluded the tour;

(b) On 25 and 26 March, the United Nations information centre in Antananarivo organized several screenings of *The Ark of Return: Lest We Forget* and *Coeur de Lion*, followed by presentations on slavery, for students and members of United Nations clubs. On 3 April, a conference-debate took place at the Centre malgache pour le développement de la lecture publique et de l'animation culturelle, which included an opening ceremony, dance performances, skits and a panel discussion on slavery;

(c) On 24 April, the United Nations information centre in Brazzaville carried out an educational outreach event in Pointe Noire, close to the site of an ancient slave trading post. Over 300 high-school students from public and private schools took part in the event. A screening of the UNESCO documentary *Slave Routes: a Global Vision* was followed by a briefing on the causes, consequences and impact of slavery and its new forms around the world. "We learned a lot from this debate" young people said, stressing intolerance, racism, profit and poverty among the issues of concern;

(d) The Greece desk at the United Nations regional information centre in Brussels created a Greek webpage on the International Day of Remembrance, featuring the message from the Secretary-General, general information about the abolition of slavery and visuals. The page was promoted through the Greek version of the centre's Facebook page between 22 and 29 March and more than 600,000 users saw the campaign;

(e) Having facilitated the participation of Senegalese students in a global student videoconference in partnership with the UNESCO regional office in Dakar on 26 March, the United Nations information centre in Dakar organized other commemorative events in partnership with the Lycée Cheikh Omar Foutiyou Tall and the city of Saint-Louis. On 16 April, high-school students hosted a one-hour radio show on slavery, broadcast live on *Radio Municipale Dakar*. On 17 April, a screening of *Slave Routes: a Global Vision* was presented to over 300 students and teachers and representatives of the Mayor of Saint-Louis, the Minister of National Education and the United Nations information centre. Other activities included a

march through the city of Saint-Louis by 500 students and a rap concert hosted by singer Alassane Doro Djigo, alias PimPlas;

(f) On 25 March, the United Nations Information Centre in Dhaka, ASA University Bangladesh and Daffodil International University held jointly organized activities, which included a seminar, a poetry recital, a drama performance and a candle-lighting ceremony, with a poster exhibition on display throughout the day. More than 200 students and teachers attended the events;

(g) On 25 March, the United Nations Information Service in Geneva organized a screening of *Coeur de Lion*. On 14 May, the Service partnered with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies to launch Ciné-ONU Geneva with the screening of *12 Years a Slave* at the Maison de la Paix. The Acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Director of the Institute delivered remarks. The screening was attended by 600 spectators and followed by a debate on the theme of slavery with a representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and a professor from the Graduate Institute;

(h) On 11 April, for the first time, the United Nations information centre in Jakarta took part in the commemoration, with a film screening and a discussion organized in partnership with Parahyangan Catholic University and UNESCO. Following the screening of a trailer for *12 Years a Slave* and the UNESCO documentary, *Slave Route: the Soul of Resistance*, senior officials took part in a discussion. Attended by 100 participants from academia, the diplomatic community and national media, the event took place in the building that most represents solidarity between Asian and African nations: the Gedung Konferensi Asia-Africa, home to the conference in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955 that gave birth to the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries;

(i) On 1 April, the United Nations information centre in Lagos, Nigeria, organized an awareness rally, with dances and anti-slavery songs, followed by a screening of *Akwante: The Journey*. The Executive Director of the African Anti-Slavery Coalition delivered a keynote address on the history of the slave trade. The Centre also developed outreach material based on the visual identity for 2014 to help raise awareness of the International Day of Remembrance;

(j) The United Nations information centre in Lusaka commemorated the International Day of Remembrance through a social media campaign conducted over a two-day period on 24 and 25 March. Over 4,000 people were reached via bulk SMS texts around the country and Facebook and Twitter were also used to disseminate the information. In addition, 500 sticker flyers were distributed to the general public;

(k) On 25 March the United Nations office in Minsk, in partnership with International University "MITSO", held a round-table discussion on the issue of slavery and human trafficking in the presence of the First Vice-Rector of the university and international law students. Another joint initiative was a creative writing contest for high-school students on the subject "1,000 words against slavery", with the award ceremony taking place at the university on 17 April. Both events were widely covered by the Belarusian media;

(l) During the period from 25 to 31 March, the United Nations information centre in Ouagadougou organized an exhibit of photographs, posters, books,

brochures and legal texts, which was seen by over 5,000 students, government officials, parliamentarians and representatives of civil society and the media. In partnership with the Association of History Teachers of Burkina Faso, the information centre also hosted lectures on the theme "The transatlantic slave trade and racism" which benefitted some 4,000 students;

(m) On 24 March, together with the UNESCO cluster office for the Maghreb and the Mohammed V University-Agdal, the United Nations information centre in Rabat hosted a conference on the theme of "Slavery to the proof of time", in which 100 students and teachers took part. Following an opening session with four university professors, a screening of the UNESCO documentary *Slave Routes: a Global Vision* led to a discussion between the speakers and the audience, who shared reflections and proposals, including a draft declaration against slavery prepared by the students. The conference concluded with a beating of the drums. An afternoon event at the Lycée Hassan II brought together 30 high-school students who took part in a drawing and painting competition on the theme of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, while another group of students attended an information session. The events were covered by a number of national media;

(n) The United Nations information centre in Rio de Janeiro partnered with the Federal Museum of Justice to organize an exhibition which opened to the public on 14 May in Rio de Janeiro. The exhibition included materials from the travelling United Nations exhibition, *Forever Free*, translated into Portuguese under the supervision of the information centre, paintings from the collections of the Museu do Negro and ancient catalogues used to register slave purchases and sales in Brazil. The free admission exhibition will remain on display until the end of September, when it will be transferred to the city of Niterói. The opening ceremony featured the UNESCO film *Slave Route: the Soul of Resistance*, which had also been translated into Portuguese by the information centre, and a round table on the theme of "The law and the Afro-descendants: from the abolition to affirmative action";

(o) On 28 March, the United Nations office in Tbilisi, in cooperation with the European Law Students' Association Georgia, organized a youth conference on the theme of "Zero discrimination". *Slave Routes: a Global Vision* was viewed by 70 law students from universities based in Tbilisi and the National Defence Academy of Georgia;

(p) On 25 March, the United Nations office in Yerevan partnered with Yerevan State University, host to the first United Nations depository library in Armenia, to organize a discussion with law students on the issue of slavery. On 31 March, an information-sharing event on transatlantic slave trade and human trafficking issues took place with the coordinators of school networks/NGOs and representatives of United Nations Corners. To support those activities, the message of the Secretary-General for the International Day of Remembrance, information materials and a video clip entitled "United Nations honours heroes and survivors of the transatlantic slave trade" were translated into Armenian and are available on the website of the office.

V. Information outreach and resources

33. The interest generated by the 2014 theme and film festival afforded a unique opportunity to enhance world public awareness of the importance of the slave trade, the role of the Haitian Revolution in the abolitionist movements, the UNESCO Slave Route Project sites of memory and the permanent memorial initiative. The commemorative activities benefited from improved coverage worldwide through traditional and social media channels, thanks to the involvement of a number of celebrities and increased partnerships.

34. To support the programme of activities in 2014, the Department of Public Information developed outreach products, such as regularly updated flyers, posters, banners, bookmarks, pins, folders, press kits and postcards, depicting the theme "Remember slavery". The poster was created and made available in digital format in all six official languages of the United Nations and in Haitian Creole, Kiswahili and Portuguese.

35. Through its multimedia services, the Department also facilitated coverage of all the events that took place. Key activities were announced at the noon briefing by the United Nations spokesperson and images were made available to television stations and print media worldwide. United Nations Photo, United Nations Television and Video, United Nations Web TV, UNifeed and the United Nations News Centre regularly covered the events. Programmes included interviews with key speakers participating in the activities and videos and feature stories were produced on the permanent memorial, the film festival and official commemorations. United Nations Radio also reported on the activities in all six official languages and in Kiswahili and Portuguese.

36. In addition, media outreach was increased with the support of the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit of the Department of Public Information, which provided services to journalists reporting on the events and disseminated press releases and media alerts. As a result, interviews, photos and stories were featured by international news agencies and media outlets, including ARD Germany, Associated Press, BBC Africa, China Central Television Africa, CBC Radio-Canada, CNN, Europa News Wire, France 24, Fuji Television, Inter Press Service, Italian news agency ANSA, Nuestra Tele Noticias, Pan-African News Agency, The Root, South-South News, United Press International, WBAI and Xinhua.

37. The issue of slavery was also widely echoed in local, traditional and social media worldwide reporting on the activities organized at Headquarters and by the information centres. During his visit to Headquarters, Steve McQueen was also interviewed by student reporters from the Harlem Children's Zone (New York).

38. The International Day of Remembrance and remembrance activities were promoted through Facebook (facebook.com/rememberslavery) and Twitter (@rememberslavery) and through the main United Nations accounts. Photos of the activities were posted on Flickr and videos on YouTube. Those accounts have remained active throughout 2014 to keep the audience engaged and to increase traffic, and were listed in all outreach products and promoted through the social media accounts of the United Nations and its partners.

39. The Department of Public Information updated the website of the programme in the six official languages to facilitate global access to the activities of the

commemorative programme. The site provides educational resources on the transatlantic slave trade, with links to the message of the Secretary-General, background information and links to videos and partner websites including the twentieth anniversary of the Slave Route Project and the permanent memorial.

40. To help raise staff awareness of the programme, articles were featured on iSeek and the Secretariat intranet and a number of outreach products were distributed. The increased number of events allowed staff to participate more actively.

VI. Activities by Member States

41. In response to the request in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 68/7, Member States provided information about their national educational programmes designed to educate and inculcate in future generations an understanding of the lessons, history and consequences of slavery and the slave trade. The contributions received by the Secretariat in 2014 are summarized below.

42. In Cameroon, history programmes at the primary and secondary levels include a full curriculum on slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, both for the English- and French-speaking educational subsystems. At the primary level, the curriculum covers the following topics: slavery in Cameroon; the origin of the slave trade; methods of the slave trade (domestic, trans-Africa and Atlantic routes); the abolition of the slave trade; reasons for buying and selling slaves; and the economic, social and demographic consequences of slavery and the slave trade. The secondary programme explores the same topics in greater depth and includes a specific course on relations between Africa and Europe, the evolution of the trade routes and trading posts and the beginnings of the triangular trade. The goal of the programme is for students to acquire a better understanding of national and international historical developments and of the evolution of society from a social, cultural, political and economic perspective.

43. In accordance with national legislation, the school curriculum at the elementary school level in Denmark requires students of history to generate an understanding of the history and consequences of slavery and the slave trade. The national history curriculum contains a mandatory canon of 29 historical events, including the abolition of the slave trade. The mandatory curriculum at the upper secondary education level also includes intercultural skills; European colonization and the role of Denmark in that process; human rights and peace, including the importance of legal systems; and the acquisition of knowledge of relations between the Western cultural sphere and the rest of the world and of knowledge of cultural clashes from ancient times to the present globalized world.

44. For several years, the National Museum in Copenhagen has focused on the themes of slavery and the slave trade for educational purposes. Every year a large number of primary and secondary level students visit the National Museum to learn about the Danish slave trade from 1660 to 1802. The National Museum invites students on a journey through its ethnographic collections, including those from Africa, to the Danish collections, which exhibit artefacts from the Danish colonies in the West Indies, where slaves were transported. The primary educational focus is the historic slave trade, but perspectives on modern slavery and human rights are

also introduced. The Museum has also published educational material for teaching on the subjects of the slave trade and slavery.

45. Eighteen Danish schools are linked to the transatlantic slave trade project of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network. As a result, teaching in that area includes student exchanges and direct confrontation with cultures that have been colonized in the past. For 10 years, the Danish Associated Schools Project Network has worked on the development and dissemination of teaching materials on the transatlantic slave trade via its website, where the materials are publicly available from www.unesco-asp.dk. There has, therefore, been an increase in the use of teaching materials on the topic in schools, such as the 12 court cases from the Danish West Indies which took place between 1822 and 1844, which depict different aspects of life as a slave.

46. In the Finnish school system, slavery, the transatlantic slave trade and the consequences thereof are taught as part of compulsory history studies in 7th grade (lower secondary, 13-year olds) and at the upper secondary level (17-year olds). All textbooks used contain wide-ranging information about the causes, consequences and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade from both the micro- and macrohistorical perspectives. The dangers of racism and prejudice are also featured prominently in history classes and the mandatory social studies/citizenship education classes. A citation of chapter 2.1 on the underlying values of basic education of the Finnish national core curriculum from 2011 reads:

The first paragraph of this chapter is amended as follows:

The underlying values of basic education are human rights, equality, democracy, natural diversity, preservation of environmental viability, and the endorsement of multiculturalism. Key documents defining human rights are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child of the United Nations and the European Convention on Human Rights. Basic education promotes responsibility, a sense of community, and respect for the rights and freedoms of the individual.

47. The Government of Kenya has mandated teaching about slavery and the slave trade in its education curriculum to enable students to understand the issue and its consequences. In the primary school syllabus, the subject is taught at class level Standard 6 and 7, with topics on political developments and systems, including the effects of early visitors to eastern Africa and the scramble for and partition of eastern Africa (reasons for the coming of the Europeans). For the secondary school curriculum, the subject is taught under three topics: "Form I": contact between East Africa and the outside world; "Form II": trade; and "Form III": the European colonization of Africa. The Ministry of Education has recommended to curriculum developers that they strengthen the study of the issue of slavery and the slave trade by formulating appropriate objectives during the upcoming curriculum review.

48. Luxembourg reported that slavery and the slave trade are part of the curriculum at the secondary education level, both for the general and technical tracks. For the general track, topics include the transatlantic slave trade in the context of European colonization of the Americas; emancipation in the context of the French Revolution and the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen; and colonialism. The technical track includes the transatlantic slave trade in

the context of the history of the United States, colonization and human and civil rights as part of civic education.

49. The Ministry of Culture and Heritage of Senegal indicated that, with the island of Gorée on the UNESCO World Heritage list, Senegal had a responsibility to teach young people about the history and legacy of slavery. The Ministry of Education has developed a curriculum concerning the history of slavery and the slave trade for secondary school students, which includes a mandatory field visit to and/or a school project about the House of Slaves on the island of Gorée. The lower secondary level curriculum covers the slave trade and its consequences in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe; the slave trade in Senegal; and the abolitionist movements. The upper secondary level curriculum includes the Arab slave trade, the transatlantic slave trade and the slave trade in Senegal. Senegalese schools that are members of the transatlantic slave trade project of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network take part in activities to commemorate the victims of the slave trade and the abolition of slavery, including on the International Days related to slavery: 25 March, 23 August and 2 December.

50. The United States reported that, as a multicultural society, it remained committed to fighting racism, safeguarding the dignity of people regardless of race or background and countering the hateful legacy of slavery. The study of slavery and the slave trade is covered in school curricula throughout the United States, as an important part of the history of the American people. Under its federalist system of government, education in the United States is primarily the responsibility of state and local governments. States and local communities, as well as public and private organizations of all kinds, establish schools and colleges, develop curricula and determine requirements for enrolment and graduation.

51. In addition to the prescribed curricula in schools across the country, supplemental resources and information about the history, consequences and lessons of slavery are widely available. For example, the Department of Education administers the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program, which provides grants to non-profit educational organizations established to "research, display, interpret and collect artefacts relating to the Underground Railroad." The funded projects all address slavery and the Underground Railroad itself. Information about the programme and the grants is available from www2.ed.gov/programs/ugroundrr/index.html. The Library of Congress, the National Archives and other institutions have a wide array of resources available for teachers, including websites such as www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/teachers.html, which are readily available to students and others interested in further study about slavery.

Activities submitted in 2013 and revalidated in 2014

52. Jamaica has continued its policies and programmes to highlight the role of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade in moulding Jamaican culture and society. Its efforts have centred on educating the public about the horrors of slavery, the struggle against slavery, the legacy of slavery and the connections to modern Jamaican society. At the same time, most programmes and activities have been organized to celebrate the struggle and victory of Jamaicans over the system of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, in addition to the colonial legacy.

VII. Contribution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade

Slave route: resistance, liberty and heritage

53. In the new directions and prospects adopted for the project by UNESCO member States in 2012, a holistic and inclusive approach and innovative lines of action positioning the flagship programme at the heart of UNESCO intersectoral actions were proposed: the preservation of tangible and intangible heritage; the promotion of cultural diversity, museums and memory of the world; the fight against racism and discrimination; and the promotion of intercultural dialogue. In order to mobilize collaboration and partnerships with strategic partners to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Slave Route Project, a series of high-visibility activities have been undertaken. The significant results of the project over 20 years at different levels demonstrate, from a cultural, social, educational and policy perspective, the timeliness and relevance of the project in the promotion of mutual understanding, reconciliation and intercultural dialogue, which are major concerns for modern societies today. Activities carried out under the project since the submission of the previous report are outlined below.

Scientific research

54. In the increasing amount of literature produced on the slave trade and slavery in recent years, there have been calls for the preparation of a reference document on the main aspects of the slave trade and slavery in the various regions concerned. That document, prepared with contributions from members of the International Scientific Committee for the project in their respective areas of expertise, was finalized and progressively posted on the website of the project. Those contributions are dedicated to students, researchers and teachers, particularly to help them in the elaboration of pedagogical content on the slave trade and slavery. The project is also supporting new research and publications on issues that are little addressed, in particular in neglected regions (e.g. the Middle East and Asia).

Development of teaching and awareness-raising materials

55. The Slave Route Project has further contributed to identifying new educational approaches and the teaching of slavery and the slave trade at various educational levels. Through the project, support has also been given to specific initiatives to develop teaching materials, including in Brazil, Canada, France and Saint Kitts and Nevis. In cooperation with the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network, the film entitled, *Slave Trade: the Soul of Resistance*, which targets young people, was widely disseminated and discussed on different occasions at schools in Barbados, Canada, France (including Guadeloupe) and Kenya and presented on French television.

56. As part of the commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance in 2014, the Slave Route Project cooperated closely with the Department of Public Information to organize a series of activities in different countries, particularly in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Contribution to the preparation of the programme of action for the Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024)

57. Representatives of the Slave Route Project took part in various meetings organized in Geneva by OHCHR to propose concrete actions that could foster the knowledge and recognition of the contributions of enslaved Africans to the construction of modern societies. That includes proposals on new approaches to teaching and learning about the slave trade and slavery; on effective policies to introduce the issue into national narratives; on research programmes to enhance the study of the subject at universities; and on methodologies to inventory, preserve and promote sites of memory.

Development of sites of memory

58. UNESCO took an active part in the designation of the laureate of the international competition to build a permanent memorial at the United Nations to honour the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade. The Director-General of UNESCO took part in the unveiling ceremony on 23 September 2013 at United Nations Headquarters.

59. UNESCO is finalizing a conceptual and methodological capacity-building guide for managers of sites and places of memory, which will encourage cultural tourism around historical sites related to the slave trade and slavery and contribute to local sustainable development. To that end, a meeting of managers of sites of memory was held in Williamsburg, Virginia, in partnership with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, to discuss the modalities of an international network of managers. Within the framework of the twentieth anniversary of the Slave Route Project, UNESCO has also created a new commemorative plaque bearing the words "The slave route: resistance, liberty, history and heritage, site of memory associated with the UNESCO slave route" to encourage Member States and partners to put in place itineraries of memory recognized by UNESCO that could be used as tools for education and "memory tourism".

Celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Slave Route Project (1994-2014)

60. Activities have been undertaken worldwide to encourage Member States and partners to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Slave Route Project and celebrate its significant results. The project has had a considerable impact at local, national, regional, interregional and international levels and has helped to change attitudes globally. It has contributed substantially to fostering greater awareness of the ethical, political, socioeconomic and cultural dimensions of that history and memory. A comprehensive list of activities planned worldwide by various partners has been posted on the website of the project and a special logo has been designed for the anniversary and shared with interested partners.

61. UNESCO is preparing an important event at its Headquarters on 10 September 2014 to mark the anniversary. The event will bring together high-level political, intellectual and artistic personalities from different regions of the world to renew their support and commitment for this interregional and multidisciplinary project. Participants will include the former President of Cabo Verde, Pedro Pires, the UNESCO Special Envoy for Haiti, famous jazz musician Marcus Miller and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies. The Director-General of

UNESCO will open an exhibition entitled "Africans in India: from slavery to generals and rulers".

VIII. Partnerships

62. Through the consolidation of existing partnerships and the establishment of new ones, the Department of Public Information has managed to boost the outreach of the programme significantly. Those partnerships have increased the scope of activities and the visibility of the programme, engaging new audiences and fostering the expansion of networks.

63. The collaboration with the African Burial Ground National Monument and the memorial to the abolition of slavery in Nantes, France, have helped to raise awareness of sites of memory. Both were featured in the exhibition "Victory over slavery: Haiti and beyond", which was also supported by architect Rodney Leon. A large part of the exhibition was dedicated to the design of the United Nations permanent memorial. A special connection has been established with the African Burial Ground National Monument, which was also designed by Rodney Leon. In addition to the joint screening of the movie *Toussaint Louverture* and the student theatre workshop featured at the cultural and culinary event, the National Monument has also added the *The Ark of Return: Lest We Forget* to its video screenings for visitors.

64. The activities organized jointly with the International Organization of la Francophonie allowed the Department to highlight African cultural heritage through the Manu Dibango concert and through screening African films, such as *Tey* and *Coeur de Lion*. The partnership with the "Remember slavery" programme has been prominently featured in all outreach materials of the International Organization of la Francophonie, targeting the French-speaking community in New York.

65. Partnering with the New York African Film Festival was of particular relevance and helped engagement with largely African and African-American audiences. In addition to the "Remember slavery" programme being presented at the screenings at Lincoln Center and Joyce Kilmer Park, the joint screening of *Coeur de Lion* brought the New York African Film Festival audience to the United Nations. The outreach print products of the festival featured a description of the "Remember slavery" programme, including its visual identity, and were disseminated to 18,000 people, while email communications also featured the partnership.

66. With the support of the Creative Community Outreach Initiative, the Department also expanded its partnerships with the film industry. Following the successful screening of *12 Years A Slave* at the United Nations only days before it won best picture at the Academy Awards, the production company Fox Searchlight Pictures agreed to screen the film *Belle* at the United Nations before its official release. The participation of actors and directors in most of the screenings resulted in a better awareness of the programme in the creative community. The Department also reached out to smaller production companies and negotiated screening rights for the United Nations information centres for *Coeur de Lion* and *Akwantu*.

67. Partnerships with cultural and research institutions, schools, colleges and other educational entities worldwide were further developed. Events were organized with the support of, or with representatives from, for example, the Bronx Museum of the

Arts, California State University, Columbia University, the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, Fordham University, New York University, the National Park Services, the University of Sydney in Australia and York University in Canada.

68. The active engagement of Member States also increased in supporting the many events that were offered, resulting in improved attendance, the participation of diasporas and coverage by national media. In addition to the Permanent Mission of Haiti, which provided strong support to the activities, the Permanent Missions of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Jamaica, Senegal and the United Kingdom, as well as the African Union and the Permanent Memorial Committee sponsored or co-hosted a number of events.

IX. Future activities

69. In 2015, the Department of Public Information will continue to collaborate closely with Member States to promote the annual observance of the International Day of Remembrance, the remembrance programme and the permanent memorial initiative.

70. Building on the positive momentum gained in 2014, it will continue to organize events throughout the year. The year-long activities make for better opportunities for outreach and partnerships, for planning events more effectively within existing resources and for creating a sustained and impactful educational programme.

71. The early adoption of a theme for the commemoration in 2014 proved to be an advantage. It allowed for timely planning for the development of the programme and helped to secure the participation of speakers. Based on that experience, the theme for 2015, "Women and slavery", was adopted by the end of June, with the concurrence of States members of the Caribbean Community and the African Union. In the context of the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the theme for 2015 will allow the role of women in preserving and passing on the cultural heritage to be explored. Activities will also be designed to support the promotion of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

72. The Department will explore opportunities to increase outreach and education efforts, working closely with the network of United Nations information centres. Based on the proven success of using film to reach out more widely, it will negotiate screening rights with film directors and production companies to offer additional titles for educational screenings. The collaboration with the UNESCO Slave Route Project will be further strengthened.

73. The Department will also continue to support efforts to raise awareness of the permanent memorial initiative, in cooperation with States members of the Caribbean Community and the African Union, in particular in the context of the groundbreaking ceremony currently scheduled for the first quarter of 2015.

74. Consolidating existing partnerships, exploring additional ones and broadening the network of engaged stakeholders will allow for further expansion of the scope of activities and outreach to a broader audience. The Department will dedicate special attention to strengthening the involvement of academics and institutions of learning in the programme, in order to fulfil its educational mandate.